

KEEPING UP WITH THE NEWS

CALENDAR:



Wed, Dec. 3rd, the *Deaf UMW meeting* will be held at 6:30PM in the church library.



"Learn To Be A Leader" workshop will be held on Sun, Dec. 7th after our morning worship service.



Fri, Dec. 12th, Magothy Deaf Church will have a *Christmas Party* beginning at 7:30PM in the fellowship hall at the church.



Dec. 24th, our *Christmas Eve service* is at 6PM.



Dec. 25th is *Christmas*.



A *Covenant Renewal Service* is on Sun, Dec. 28th at 9:30AM to renew our commitment to Christian service for the New Year.



CHRISTMAS: WAS DECEMBER 25TH JESUS' BIRTHDAY?

The Gospel accounts indicate that Jesus was born before the winter season:

Luke 2:8 Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. {Sheep were never in the field by night in Palestine after the third week of October.}



It may be hard to believe the date of Jesus' birth is not known. The gospels indicate neither the day, the month, nor the year of his birth.

What history tells us:

Despite the beliefs about Christ that the birth stories expressed, the church did not observe a festival for the celebration of the event until the 4th century. The date was chosen to counter the pagan (those who worship various gods) festivities connected with the winter solstice (either of the two times of the year when the sun is at its greatest distance from the celestial equator); since 274, under the emperor Aurelian, Rome had celebrated the feast of the "Invincible Sun" on December 25. (Christmas, The 1995 Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia)

Though the substitution of Christmas for the pagan festival cannot be proved with certainty, it remains the best explanation for the dating of Christmas. (The Catholic Encyclopedia, p.656, vol. 3, 1967.)

HARVEST DAY PARADE

On Sunday, November 2nd members of Magothy Deaf church and Magothy hearing church participated in the Harvest Day Parade in Pasadena. Food was generously donated and collected for those in need for the Thanksgiving holiday. We filled up our entire float with food to add to our Door Step Mission project. Everyone had a great time.



Our preparation for the parade.



During the parade we sang and signed hymns for the public.



We were greeted by Ronald McDonald during the parade.

QUIZ: JESUS' BIRTH

- 1.) Who was the father of Joseph the husband of Mary?
 - a. Jacob
 - b. Eleazar
 - c. Azor
 - d. Jechonias
- 2.) Which angel appeared to Mary?
 - a. Gabriel
 - b. The Angel of the Lord
 - c. Michael
 - d. Gideon
- 3.) Who was promised that he would not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ?
 - a. Zacharias
 - b. Joseph
 - c. Simeon
 - d. John the Baptist
- 4.) Who was the king of Judaea at the time of the birth of Jesus?
 - a. Herod
 - b. Pilate
 - c. Caesar
 - d. Barnabas
- 5.) Where was Jesus born?
 - a. Nazareth
 - b. Bethlehem
 - c. Jerusalem
 - d. Egypt
- 6.) How did the shepherds who visited Baby Jesus know where to find Him?
 - a. In a dream.
 - b. An angel told them.
 - c. They read it in a scroll.
 - d. A messenger told them.
- 7.) How did the Magi (wise men) know where to find Baby Jesus?
 - a. They followed a star.
 - b. An angel told them.
 - c. They were told in a dream.
 - d. They followed a cloud.
- 8.) Which was not a gift the wise men brought to Jesus?
 - a. Myrrh
 - b. Frankincense
 - c. Silver
 - d. Gold.

ANSWERS 1. a 2. b 3. c 4. a 5. b 6. b 7. a 8. c
http://quiz.christiansunite.com/Jesus_of_Nazareth/Jesus'_Birth.shtml

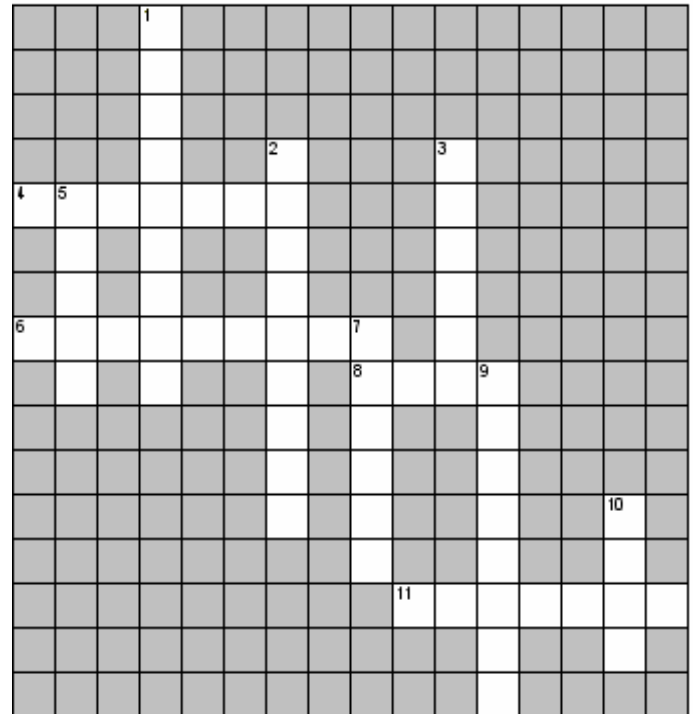
ACROSS

4. Where did Joseph and Mary go after they completed what was required by law?
6. Where did Joseph and Mary go every year at Passover?
8. Who was Phanael's daughter?
11. Whose house did Jesus tell his parents he had been while in Jerusalem?

DOWN

1. Who was governor of Syria?
2. Which was the town of David?
3. Who was the man in Jerusalem who had the Holy Spirit on him?
7. Where did Mary place her new born baby?
9. Which Caesar decreed a census?
10. The glory of whom shined around the shepherds?

LUKE CHAPTER 2



ANSWERS: Across 4. Galilee 6. Jerusalem 8. Anna 11. Fathers
Down: 1. Augustus 2. Bethlehem 3. Simeon 7. manger 9. Augustus 10. Lord

The Journey to Bethlehem



**December
 10th, 11th, & 12th
 (Wed, Thu, & Fri)**

6PM – 8PM

Magothy United Methodist Church of the Deaf will be hosting a **Christmas Vacation Bible School** for deaf and hearing children ages 4–12.

**Bible Stories Games Songs
 Arts & Crafts Snacks**

There is no cost for attending except for the donation of an unwrapped gift to be given to underprivileged families.

For more information contact
 Pastor Yates at
 410-693-9882 V or leoyjr@aol.com.

VOLUNTEERS AND DONATIONS NEEDED

The Christmas Vacation Bible School is being hosted by our church. We are looking for volunteers. We have instructors for each of the programs, but we need other adults to help monitor the children.

In addition, we are asking for donations of different snacks and drinks for each evening. Such items needed are

- ❖ Koolaid or punch
- ❖ Cookies
- ❖ Puddings
- ❖ Jello
- ❖ Candies

Also, we are collecting gifts for needy families who are experiencing more difficulty than usual this year.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS



In preparation for one of the most important and most loved seasons of the Christian year, questions arise about the symbols and rituals of the season.

Advent, the first season of the Christian year, begins four Sundays before Christmas. It is a time of preparation for the coming of Christ. The word Advent comes from the Latin *adventus*, which means "coming." The Christmas season extends from Christmas Day through Epiphany, on January 6. Early in the 4th century, Roman Christians adopted the day of the pagan winter solstice festival as the day to celebrate the birth of Christ. Epiphany, which comes from the Greek word *epiphaneia*, means "manifestation" of God in Christ. On this day Christians celebrate the visit of the Wise Men, the first Gentiles (non-Jews) to know of Christ.

FAQ's



What do the candles in our Advent wreath mean? Why is there one rose candle and one white candle?

The Advent wreath, four candles on a wreath of evergreen, is shaped in a perfect circle to symbolize the eternity of God. In some churches, four purple candles, one for each week in Advent, are used with one larger white candle in the middle as the Christ candle. Other churches prefer three purple or blue candles with the fourth candle being rose or pink, to represent joy. The lighting of the first candle symbolizes expectation, the second symbolizes hope, the third joy and the fourth purity. The Christ candle is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day reminding Christians that Jesus is the light of the world.



What colors are used during Advent? What do they mean?

Traditionally, purple is used during Advent because it represents both royalty and penitence. Blue is also used, representing hope.

What colors are used during Christmas? What do they mean?

White and gold are used at Christmas to symbolize joy and festivities.



What is the "Hanging of the Greens?"

Many churches hold a service of preparation for Christ's coming, which includes hanging greenery traditionally associated with everlasting life. Greens such as cedar for royalty, fir and pine boughs for everlasting life, holly symbolizing Jesus' death and ivy representing the resurrection are used.



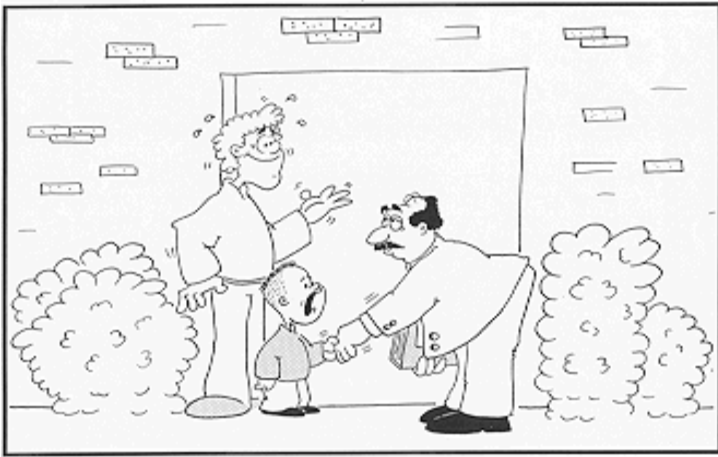
This is a group picture of those participating in the Harvest Day Parade on November 2nd. Many thanks to the volunteers.

BRING A FRIEND SUNDAY

Every fourth Sunday has been designated (chosen) to be "**Bring a Friend To Church**



Sunday." As a way of reaching those who are unchurched, it is our hope we will be able to reach those who are unchurched. Be sure to bring a friend that we can share with them our life with Jesus.



"Dad says if it wasn't for your sermons, he'd never get any sleep."

LEARN TO BE A LEADER

On **Sunday, December 7th**, Pastor Yates will give a seminar on how to be a church leader.



- **How To Become A Leader**
- **Church Leadership Roles**
- **Committee Responsibilities**

This seminar will be held after our 9:30AM worship service. Refreshments will be served. Join us as we learn as a church community to better serve our church.

Sources For Our Methodist Faith

- * The Bible
- * John Wesley's writings
- * The Articles of Religion
- * The Confession of Faith
- * The United Methodist "Book of Discipline"
- * Theologians and Educators.

United Methodists Have 4 Guidelines For Belief

These guidelines help those understand their faith, they include:

- * Scripture
- * Tradition
- * Experience
- * Reason.

They are interdependent (work together) and allow for variety in theology (study of religion).

United Methodists Share A Common Heritage With Other Christians:

- * Conviction that God has mercy and love for all people
- * Belief in a triune God-Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- * Faith in of salvation through Jesus Christ
- * Celebration of the sacraments.

In these and many other ways, Methodism affirms the unity of all Christians in the Body of Christ.