

The Covenanter

Silverhill Covenant Church

“To work for God, God’s people, and to win souls for His Kingdom”

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Birth of Christ

The Baby was made known to the shepherds – the working class; to the wise men – the student class; to Simeon and Anna – the worshipping class. He is still made know to us in our work, our study, our worship. But somehow His coming is still lost in vague mistaken notions about “peace on earth, good will to men.” The average Christmas card does not come near suggesting what He really came to do. He came to save us from our sins and now, centuries later, we still will not admit that our real trouble is sin. Poverty, ignorance, yes, but not sin. Does anybody dare to suggest to Congress or to the United Nations that this is the root of all our troubles?

Something was done about sin at Bethlehem long ago. Until we face that, all the pretty pictures of watching shepherds and singing angels and the Magi and Joseph and Mary wearing halos are just window dressing for an empty window. Phillips Brooks went on to write:

O holy Child of Bethlehem,

Descend on us, we pray;

Cast out our sin and enter in,

Be born in us today.

All the celebration of the Nativity is a waste of time unless the Savior is born in our hearts. That calls for a miracle. Sin has gotten us into more trouble than all our science can get us out of. It calls for divine intervention and that is what happened in Bethlehem.

-Cited in The Vance Havner Notebook

Baker, pg. 171,172, Co. 1989

Advent

Advent was one week away, so we thought we’d see what the children remembered from our family devotions the year before. “Who can tell me what the four candles in the Advent wreath represent?” I asked.

Luke jumped in with seven-year-old wisdom and exuberance. “There’s love, joy, peace, and...and...”

“I know!” six-year-old Elise interrupted to finish her brother’s sentence: “Peace and quiet!”



December

The church was beautifully decorated for Christmas: poinsettias, evergreen boughs, golden bows, and a candle on the sill of each stained-glass window. Amid the beauty, the choir was

presenting its cantata.

I wanted to capture this special event, so I asked a fellow churchgoer to oblige and after experimenting decided the best place to set up was by the windows.

About fifteen minutes into the service, the cameraman leaned too close to the lit candle on the window sill, and his suit coat caught fire! Two alert folks hastily snuffed out the blaze. We rejoiced that no one was injured, and, as our minister of music quickly noted, "Finally, somebody was truly on fire for Jesus!"

Christmas Recycling

It's time to recycle those leftover holiday fruitcakes. That's right. You can have your cake and use it, too.* Just consider the possibilities:

- Pothole filler
- Shot Put
- Speed Bump
- Boat Anchor
- Flower Press
- Bed Warmer (heat to 350 degrees)
- Ice Pack (chilled for 12 hours)
- Chopping block
- Scratching post for your cat

*User assumes all liability for busted toes, hernias, and other medical ailments resulting therefrom.



Peanut-Caramel Candy Bars

- 1 14 ounce pkg. vanilla caramels
- 3 T. butter
- 2 T. milk
- 1 c. chopped peanuts

1 ½ pounds dipping chocolate or confectioner's coating

Line an 8x8x2-inch baking pan with foil, extending foil over edges of pan. Butter the foil, set pan aside.

In a heavy 1 ½ quart saucepan, combine vanilla caramels, butter and milk. Cook over low heat, stirring occasionally, until caramels are melted. Stir in the chopped peanuts. Pour mixture into prepared pan. Chill about 1 hour or until firm. When firm, use the foil to lift candy out of the pan; cut into 2x1-inch rectangles. Melt the dipping chocolate. Carefully dip the rectangles, one at a time, into the melted chocolate. Let excess chocolate drip off rectangles. Place the dipped rectangles on a baking sheet lined with waxed paper until dry. Store tightly covered in a cool, dry place. Makes 32 candy bars.



- December 1 – Down Home Christmas
- December 7 – Christmas in the Park
- December 10 – Covenant Women's Christmas Party
- December 16 – Sunday School Christmas Program
- December 19 – Christmas Hayride at the Pope Farm
- December 23 – Christmas Magnificent
- December 25 – Julotta
- December 31 – Watchnight