



# The Plumbline

Newsletter of the Wilmore Free Methodist Church

December 2015 / January 2016



## *From the Pastor's Pen*

*By Daryl Diddle*

### **Christmas Means...What?!**

That's the reaction I find myself having as I observe our culture's response to Christmas these days...and even more than that...our culture's interpretation of what Christmas really is and means. So many advertisements that we see around Christmas are so inviting, with their very warm, friendly images of children laughing, people passing, meeting smile after smile. Of course, there's also, usually, a shot of a beautiful, food-laden table, and often, somewhere in the ad, there's a fire blazing in the background (in a fireplace – not a house or barn fire or anything like that). And then, at the end of the ad, almost always, the narrator's voice, very climactically, says something like, “after all, Christmas means \_\_\_\_\_” or, “after all, \_\_\_\_\_ is the real reason for Christmas.”

What do those advertisers usually put in those blank places? Any number of things.

Imagine you were from some far-away place like, Tennessee, or Mars, or somewhere like that, and you appeared in our world and our especially our American culture around Christmastime. Based on just your observations, what would you be forced to assume about what Christmas is and what Christmas means?

Well, you'd certainly think it has something to do with buying stuff for yourself and for others, although given just a few days in our world, you'd probably wind up concluding that buying stuff is a tradition independent of Christmas or any other observance. Buying lots of stuff, you'd conclude, is just part of normal life here.

It seems to me that conclusions you'd reach about the blanks above... about what Christmas means...would include:

A time for family to get together.

A time for friends to get together.

A time to drink beer with family and friends.

A time to eat food...a lot of food...expensive food...food you don't normally eat.

A time to take vacation from work.

A time to watch sports or movies on TV.

A time to travel.

A time to cut down a perfectly good tree from outside and bring it inside.

A time to hear time-honored stories about an imaginary man named “Santa Claus.”

A time to spend a lot of money decorating the outside of your house, often gaudily, since even Martians have some aesthetic sensibilities...although I'm not so sure about people from Tennessee. (Haha..just kidding all you Vols.)

A time to buy an even larger television than you bought last year, in order to enhance your sports- or movie-watching experience.

*“We have to speak, not for the sake of Jesus, but for the sake of all the misguided people whom Jesus loves who think Christmas means all those nice-sounding, but ultimately secondary, things, like friends, family, love, joy, happiness, and peace. Christmas has to mean Jesus before any of those things...”*

*continued on page 2*

And then, shortly after Christmas, a Martian might assume that the season would also be a special time set aside to:

Seek financial counsel on how to reduce debt.  
Seek fitness counsel on how to reduce weight.

Now, the reason I bring all this up is simply to remind us that we, the Church, have a message to keep before our culture at Christmas. In every way possible, God calls us to simply stand as a reminder to our friends and neighbors about what Christmas *really* is, and to proclaim to all who will hear what Christmas *really* means. The fact is, if the Church doesn't do it, who will?

Of course, we don't have the budget to run multi-million-dollar advertisements during those movies and sports events that everyone's watching in this season. Neither can we really discount products to get people into our "stores." We have to be more creative than that, and trust that the Lord will make up for all that we lack, compared to the marketing methods of our culture.

The way we accomplish our task of explaining what Christmas really is, is, as I mentioned a couple Sundays ago, joining with God in being word-of-mouth advertisers for Him. Instead of joining our culture's spending and other kinds of sprees in these days, we lovingly and compassionately remind them, with our words and lives, that Christmas is about the gift of Jesus...and really nothing else. We have to find the times and words to say, with love, that if you take away Jesus, you take away the heart and soul of Christmas.

Now, in pointing people to Jesus, will we be looked at strangely? Of course we will. Will we be regarded as weirdos? Probably so. The truth is, God's people have been treated this way for...well...ever. Anytime a voice in the desert proclaims a message that is quite different than the culture around it, that person will be looked at strangely, whether they eat locusts or ham at Christmas. We just have to expect that.

But we can't give away the message and meaning of Christmas. We can't stand back and allow our culture to take over the meaning of these days. We have to speak, not for the sake of Jesus, but for the sake of all these misguided people whom Jesus loves who think Christmas means all those nice-sounding, but ultimately secondary things like *friends, family, love, joy, happiness, and peace*. Christmas has to mean *Jesus* before any of those things, if any of those things are to last beyond December 25th in a person's life.

As we celebrate this year, let's remember that we're the voice of reality in our culture about Christmas, and come what may, let's let our voice be lovingly heard...so all those around us might be able to find and receive the real



### **John Wesley Covenant Worship** **New Year's Eve, December 31, at 6:00 p.m.**

In 1663 Richard Alleine, a Puritan, published *Vindiciae Pietatis: or, A Vindication of Godliness in the Greater Strictness and Spirituality of It*. In 1753, it was again published in John Wesley's *A Christian Library*. Wesley used one chapter, *The Application of the Whole*, on Monday, August 11, 1755, in what probably was the first real celebration of the Covenant Service in the Methodist movement.

Wesley found the service rich and meaningful, as expressed in his Journal: "Many mourned before God, and many were comforted...it was, as usual, a time of remarkable blessing...it was an occasion for a variety of spiritual experiences ... I do not know that ever we had a greater blessing. Afterwards many desired to return thanks, either for a sense of pardon, for full salvation, or for a fresh manifestation of His graces, healing all their backslidings." In London these services were usually held on New Year's Day. Around the country the Covenant Service was conducted whenever John Wesley visited the Methodist Societies.

Come and worship on New Year's Eve, in this re-commitment of ourselves and lives to the God who holds the new year in His hands.



## WFMC Music Ministries: Take "Note"

*Listed below are WFMC musical events you won't want to miss for the Christmas Season!*

Sunday morning, December 6<sup>th</sup> - The adult Christmas Choir will present a cantata entitled, "The Word Made Flesh," a musical celebration featuring the choir and organ with narratives and texts taken from both ancient and modern carols and poems.

Sunday night, December 6<sup>th</sup> - All-church Christmas caroling will take place beginning at 6:00 p.m. We will be caroling to neighborhoods within the Nicholasville and Wilmore areas. Come ready to sing and ready for good fellowship, food, and fun!

Sunday night, December 13<sup>th</sup> - Heaven's Harmony Christmas musical, "The Loaned Manger"

*Special thanks to all our wonderful directors and musicians for your leadership and participation this Christmas Season!*

**\*\*Reminder that rehearsals will resume for the new year on Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>; Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>; and Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup> \*\***



Members of Trail Life Troop KY-0429 are so thankful for God's continued blessing on our troop! Our troop is open to future Trailmen in grades 2 - 12; there are currently 18 Woodsmen (grades 2 - 5) and 13 Navigators (grades 6 - 9). The Wilmore Fire Department tour and camping activities were well attended with more activities to come. We participated in the Veteran's Day parade and will do caroling at several places throughout the city in December. We packed and prayed over 32 Operation Christmas Child boxes; we hope they will bring God's word and blessing to children. We will continue with the Trail Life USA's mission: *to guide generations of courageous young men to honor God, lead with integrity, serve others, and experience outdoor adventure.* Thank you for your support by providing a meeting place. We continue to welcome men for leadership and mentoring opportunities!



## Overseas Fellowship

On September 18 the Overseas Fellowship gathered for the third and final time this year. The evening program introduced us to the ministry of Jerry and Jan Coleman. As a young family, the Colemans faced trials and struggles in the early years of their ministry in Hungary, nearly bringing their missionary service to an end. However, through prayer, perseverance, and the power of the Holy Spirit, they saw a turning point and remained to serve there for 17 fruitful years as Free Methodist Area Directors for Europe. Following the years in Hungary, Jerry marveled as an exciting path led to a fulfillment of his desire to preach scriptural holiness to the nations. Through his current position with the Francis Asbury Society, Jerry is able to accomplish what the Lord is calling him to do.

The first meeting of 2016 will be in early January. Following a covered-dish dinner, our program will be a panel discussion drawing from the experiences of several missionaries, both retired and active. If you have any interest in missions or living overseas, you will not want to miss this program. Watch for details to come.

**We'd love to have you join us!**



# CONSTRUCTION PLANNING TEAM UPDATE

By Stan Wiggam, Construction Planning Team Leader

In this season of thanksgiving, we give thanks to all the individuals who have given so much time and energy to our construction project. The progress is steady, though slower than we had expected. Wiring is being completed, the walls are prepped for the finish coat of paint, the elevator is certified for safe usage, the chair lift is being installed, the restrooms are completed, and the heating/air conditioning/ventilation systems are functioning. However, we have experienced another unique setback. The massive divider wall panels must be reconfigured to be installed correctly. This delay joins the many unusual delays we have experienced on this project, but we trust in God’s timing.



We give thanks especially during this season to individuals who have a positive influence and impact on the quality of our new building. First, we give thanks to our architect, Royce Bourne. He has given steady direction to many building issues and professional guidance to the completion of the first phase of construction.

We are also very thankful to the general contractor’s on-site superintendent, David Olney. He is the one who has faithfully managed

the coordination of the subcontractors, being sure that each one has completed their work on schedule. We are privileged to have David overseeing the many details of construction.

We give thanks to Pastor Diddle and the entire staff for their flexibility and patience, especially in view of the many unexpected construction delays.



Finally the CPT gives thanks to you, the church body, for your prayers, patience, and encouragement for this project.

We were initially told by our general contractor that we would be able to occupy our new building last February. However, it is our hope that we will soon obtain the Certificate of Occupancy and be able to move in around Christmastime.

With that achievement, renovation work on the sanctuary building will commence after the holidays. Praise and thanks to all, and may you be encouraged to continue giving financially as we complete this project.

We continue to pray that the Lord will be honored through the efforts of so many individuals.

*“Unless the Lord builds this house, its builders labor in vain.”  
~ Psalm 127:1*

For regular construction updates and pictures, go to our church’s website, [www.wilmorefmc.org](http://www.wilmorefmc.org), and click on the “Construction Updates” tab.

# Library News

## PLEASE NOTE:

For tracking purposes and the benefit of all who access the library resources, **ALL** resources from the library (books, cd's dvd's, etc.), **\*\*\*whether for use during the service, during classes, or at home \*\*\*** **must** have the loan card completed and placed in the "Book Card" file.

## New Books for the Library

(Loan Period: 3 weeks)

### Children's Books

Sprout Helps Out  
The Donkey and Jesus  
Pete, Feet, Fish to Eat  
Nelly Gnu and Daddy Too  
I Wanna Go Home  
The Perfect Christmas Pageant  
Field of Peace  
Sing, Mary!  
Noah

### Youth Books

Fast Forward Toward to Normal  
Opportunity Knocks Twice  
Open Your Heart  
Double Exposure  
Good - bye to All  
Grasping at Moonbeams  
Dragonfly on My Shoulder

## Adult Books

The Sticky Faith Guide for Your Family  
Ready to Wed: 12 Ways to Start a Marriage You  
Will Love  
Expectant Parents  
24/6: A Prescription for a Healthier Happier Life  
Thunder Dog  
An Echo in the Darkness  
Angels Walking  
A Simple Christmas Wish  
Plain Peace  
Unconditional  
Christ the Healer  
The Tutor's Daughter  
Waiting for Morning

## DVDs

McFarland USA  
Meant to Be  
Tim Tebow: On a Mission  
The Drop Box

## Please Renew Items Promptly

If you need to renew any items, please check with the librarian, Bonnie Koteskey, at 858-3436; or leave a note on the library bulletin board. It is important to return the materials when they are due so that others can check them out.



Campbell's Soup Labels for  
**Oakdale Christian Academy**

**THANK YOU** FOR PROVIDING THIS NEEDED INCOME

Please continue to bring your  
Campbell's Soup labels to the library  
throughout the year.



# Marriage Ministries

by Glen Ellwood

## OUR RECOMMITMENT GIFT TO EACH OTHER - DECEMBER 2015

Today, December \_\_\_\_\_, 2015

My wife \_\_\_\_\_ and I \_\_\_\_\_

promise each again

to love and respect one another "til death us do part."

to submit to one another's needs,

to allow for one another's gifts from the Lord to be displayed in our marriage,

to come to know, speak, and act out of one another's love language,

to again seek to be the husband/wife God planned for us to be in the beginning,

to become "one flesh" in a refreshingly new way, by God's continuing grace.

Our signatures (H) \_\_\_\_\_ and (W) \_\_\_\_\_ AMEN!

THE WFMC'S MARRIAGE MINISTRY TEAM

## Women's Ministries by Susan Folsom

We have had a whirlwind of activities with our Wilmore Women.

The *IF: Tables* ministry, under Rachel Weinberger's direction, are going strong and have proven to be a catalyst for good conversation and precious fellowship. This once-a-month gathering is especially meaningful as the women establish their small groups of fellowship and become a cohesive sisterhood. There is room for you to join a group.

Three retreat options served thirty-six women. The first, October 13-14, was an overnight stay at Cedarmore. Twenty-three ladies enjoyed the beauty of autumn colors and crisp air to meet, reflect, and play! Our devotional, led by Norma Miller, struck a chord with many women and opened up a good conversation about our special relationship to God and our responsibilities to each other as sisters in Christ. Fran May led the way to two simple crafts, calling our attention to ways we can enrich each other's lives. Every woman was successful in participating in our "Gift in a Jar" and "Fall's Candles."

*Retreat Repeat*, had an intimate group, sharing laughter, memories, and concerns at the "Potter's Inn." Julie Jobryce prepared a nourishing luncheon as we experienced an abbreviated version of the Cedarmore retreat.

Our third opportunity was with the New South Conference women at Eagle Ridge. We heard Angie Smith, a celebrated author, and were treated to culinary delights at ER (Art Brown assisted his son-in-law, David Kratzer) while we mingled with ladies from around our conference. Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!

## Special Prayer for Unsaved Family Members

Do you have family members who are unsaved? Are you willing to pray for them for one hour a month? If so, please come to Margaret Dargan's house, 301 Corbitt Dr. on Monday evening, December 7<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 p.m. This special prayer time is held on the first Monday of each month, October through May. You are welcome!



**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Emmy Davila, Rosie Davila  
David Diddle, Lily Prochina
- 2 Mark Davila
- 3 Noel Taylor
- 4 Marlee Faul, Pam Hiatt
- 5 Patti Butterworth, Megan Kidwell,  
Victoria Kusche, Lorrie Liversedge,  
Carol McGlothlin
- 6 Rose Branan, Kate Madill
- 8 Don Butterworth
- 9 Dennis Adams, Paul Diddle,  
John Swaim
- 10 Johnson Cannon, Juliana Gomez
- 11 Jon Steury
- 13 Matthew VanLaningham
- 13 Elizabeth Brown, Barb Crouse
- 15 Joel Amstutz, Lynne Neyman,  
Todd Padgett
- 16 John Ireland, Katie Ostroske,  
Liam Reifsnnyder
- 19 Gary Martin
- 20 Joe Dongell, Dwight Winter
- 21 Barbara Barker, Roy Lauter
- 22 Jacob Spencer
- 23 Ken Thompson
- 25 Aaron Hall
- 26 Carol Coulliette, Lorraine Hinerman,  
Alexis Kierstead, Jenny Madill,  
Tyler Zweifel
- 27 Bea VanValin, Gary Weinberger  
Kyla Winter
- 28 Faye Hogue
- 29 Asher Spencer
- 30 Zack Anderson, Sue Lauter

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

- 3 Ruth Mitchell
- 4 Don Schreiner
- 5 Curtis Allen, Max Boileau,  
Marcia Burgess, Briana Kidwell,  
Genaea Sarantakos
- 6 Teresa Cassidy
- 7 Sara Bailey, Krista Padgett,  
Patrick Tillson
- 10 Ken Proctor III
- 11 Elijah Kidwell, Bob Peterson
- 12 Jeremy Chew, Danielle Sidler
- 14 Christina Redmon,  
Nathan Riffell
- 16 Rick Boileau, Melinda Trump
- 17 Kevin Hale, Nellie Rogers,  
Lincoln Toadvine
- 18 Joy Rice, Paul Swaim
- 19 Ray Fellows
- 21 Dennis Probst
- 22 Austin Zweifel
- 23 Jonah Evans
- 24 Marilyn VanHorn,  
Garrison Wright
- 25 Bob Barnard
- 26 Susanna Branan
- 27 Ron Johns, Ralph Kester
- 29 Grace Branan, Alma Cornett
- 30 Cooper Swaim
- 31 Sue Hamann, Pat Tillson

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**DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

- 5 Eduardo & Cindi Angelo
- 13 Johnson & Amy Cannon
- 15 Tony & Adina Headley
- 15 Eugene & June Lintemuth
- 17 Wes & Laura Blankenship
- 17 Brian & RoseMary Nowitzki
- 18 Michael & Faye Montgomery
- 21 Jay & Margaret Dargan
- 26 Leonard & Emily Fitch
- 28 Jeremy & Bee Chew
- 28 Kevin & Carolyn Hale
- 28 Ed & Sarah Kusche
- 31 Steve Schmidt & Maren McGimsey

**JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

- 15 Arvid & Judy Metcalf
- 30 Gary & Mary Ellen Martin



**WELCOME,  
ROY AND  
LUCIA  
GRAMMEL,  
to our  
church staff.**

Roy was recently hired as our Facilities Coordinator and Lucia as Custodian. Please welcome them and pray for them as they begin this new phase of ministry.

**We'll Be Moving Soon...**

into our new building. If you're able to be called upon to help (heavy or light things), please send the office an e-mail with "Move" in the subject line, and we'll notify you of day and time.

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WILMORE, KY 40390

PHONE 859-858-3521  
FAX 859-858-8047

WWW.WILMOREFMC.ORG

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## Wilmore Free Methodist Church

### Vision Statement

A Community that Reflects  
Jesus's Vision and Values

### Mission Statement

Wilmore Free Methodist Church  
will faithfully offer  
members and neighbors  
the Word of God,  
the love of the Father,  
the grace of Jesus,  
and the power of the Holy Spirit.  
We will be Christ's presence  
in our world.



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## The Loaned Manger



**A CHILDREN'S MUSICAL PRESENTED BY HEAVEN'S HARMONY  
DECEMBER 13, 6 P.M.**

**IN THE SMALL WESTERN TOWN OF INCARNATION, CHRISTMAS IS CELEBRATED  
WITH GRIT, GIDDY-UP, AND GUSTO! THEY LIKE TO THINK OF THEMSELVES AS  
"THE MOST CHRISTMASSY TOWN IN THE WEST." JOIN US AS WE TRAVEL BACK  
TO THE OLD WEST FOR A RIP-ROARIN', BOOT-STOMPIN' TIME.**

**YEEHAW!**

