



He Came to Say, "I Love You."

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That's not the picture that everyone has of Jesus. *UnChristian* (David Kinnaman, Baker Books) reveals that people think the church is hypocritical, antihomosexual, too political, and judgmental, among other things. And many unbelievers develop their impression of Jesus from their impression of us. Many people who are not of us, don't believe that we like them, much less love them. Therefore, they don't understand that Jesus loves them. They think he came to condemn!

Maybe some of us are part of the body not because we believe that we are loved; because we are trying to escape condemnation. It's OK to want to escape condemnation, and Christ is certainly the way. It's not OK, though, to think that you need to be a Christian to escape condemnation because Jesus is so eager to judge and condemn.

If you've wondered about this, you are not alone. John recorded this significant truth, "God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him" (John 3:17). And the most famous verse in the Bible, just before this great truth, reveals God's motive for sending Jesus to save, "God so loved the world."

I've gotten to read a couple of things recently that teach this message of God's love. In *Blue Like Jazz*, Donald Miller recalls the questions of his friend Penny about the love of Jesus. "Penny began to wonder if Christianity, were it a person, might in fact like her," he wrote. That was significant for Penny because she wasn't at all what she perceived the television preachers/political figures to be. She thought that Jesus was like them, so she thought Jesus probably wouldn't like her. Then, in *The Shack*, as William Young writes about the dream of his friend Mac, he recorded the words of Papa, "I'm especially fond of you." Do you believe that God is especially fond of you? Do you let the love of Christ shine in you so that others will know that Jesus does, in fact, like them?

Are you a follower because "Christ's love compels you" (2 Corinthians 5:14) or because you are trying to escape his

The Messenger

CHURCH OF CHRIST
SOUTH YUKON

condemnation. He came to say, "I love you." He didn't have to come to condemn. We were already there. He came because of his love to save us.

We can quit debating whether the unbeliever's perception of us is true. If we are the lover, it is our responsibility to show it. If they don't know it, we have to communicate differently. Some may never get it, but we have to keep trying! Jesus has never ever given up!

That's Life at Work!

Richard

All Church New Years Eve Party

Wednesday, December 31st
7:00pm

Fellowship Hall

There will be games, crafts and lots of fun!

Everyone bring your favorite snack,
a 2 liter of pop and games.

If you have ideas for games/activities
or just want to help,
please signup on the teen board.
Contact Jennie Lockhart or Debbie
Newberry for more information.

Wanted: 2009 Mission Statement

We would like your suggestions for a mission statement for 2009. It needs to be no more than one sentence in length.

Our current mission statement is:

For the Glory of God, We Will Go, Be Prepared, and Grow

Another example: Our prayer is that each member of the South Yukon family will utilize their talents to God's glory by finding their place, in service to God and each other.

Please give your suggestions to Barry Stump no later than Wednesday, December 31st. The Elders

Calendar

Sunday
KFC Christmas Party
Teen Caroling & Lights in the Park

Tuesday
Midweek Devo

Thursday
Merry Christmas!
Office Closed

Friday
Office Closed

Holiday Schedule
Tuesday, December 30th
Devo at Lakehoma

Office Closed
January 1, 2

Attention All First Time Guests!

We have a gift for you this morning to thank you for worshiping with us. Please go to the table in the "Guest Connections" area of the foyer following our worship service. Richard May, some of our elders, and members of our Guest Connections Team will be there to greet you.

Prayer Requests

Chuck Bledsoe had eye surgery last Thursday and is recuperating. **Morgan Clemmons** is still suffering a lot from her tonsillectomy. **Matthew Dobbins**, son of Greg, is going through medical testing. **Katy Hoggatt's** surgery went well. **Jason Hughs' brother Brian**, lost his place of business (funeral home) to a fire on Thursday and then on Friday a family member passed away. Please pray for them as they start to rebuild and for their loss. **Emily McCoy** requests prayers for her mother Dorine, who is her lifeline, that her mother will remain healthy. Also for her husband Glenn who came out of retirement to take care of her. And for Jana Boren, a friend, who has cancer. **Gene Newberry's mom** is home from the hospital. **Doris Rimel**, Steve's mother, received her tests back and they were pretty grim. All of the options of chemo that had been previously discussed with her are all not possible because of too many tumors in her liver. She is on Hospice Care. **Earline Shriver**, Gary's mom, will have the spot on her kidney removed January 21st. **Mike Wilhite** was hospitalized last week with severe bronchitis. **Billy Woods** was hospitalized last week but is now home doing better.

Please continue to pray for our South Yukon Family: Shyree (Mike and Cathy Morris' Foster child), **Eric Bejcek**, **Carolann Bledsoe**, **Chuck Bledsoe**, **Linda Bratcher**, **Merv Deason**, **Brenda Gunter**, **Jack Hicks**, **Brad Hudson** (bhudson16@cox.net) Piper Station Apartments #232, 5223 Gallant Fox Way, Charlotte, NC 28277), **Evelyn Hughes**, **Don Kilmer**, **Gordon Leaman**, **Emily McCoy**, **Debra and Michael New**, **Roy and Edna Nusbaum**, **Sandra Schoolcraft**, **TC & Lylia Seitz**, **Bette Sharp** (3109 Wimberley), **Kathy Wallace and Family**, **Cobey Walters**, **Mel and Debbie Warden**, **Pansy Wilson**, **Jack Womack**.

South Yukon Family with Cancer: **Ken Bennett**, **Larry Bledsoe**, **Neil Cosgrove**, **Dean Hill**, **Bea Johnson**, **Bob Kelly**, **Jim Linam**, **Shelli Vang** (undergoing chemo), **Jack Womack**. Remember their spouses & families as well.

Our Expectant Mothers: **Phyllis Cox** (Jan), **Maria Clark** (March), **Amy Ritchal** (May)
Our Shut-ins: **Evelyn Cannon**, **Marie Cox**, **Audrey Gray**, **Liz Knight**, **Don and Veda Morris**, **Buck Buchanan**, **Alice Ralls**, **Marlene Wadkins**, **Daisy Valliant** (Bellevue Health and Rehab Center ~ cards sent to Daisy at P. O. Box 850403, Yukon 73085)

Family and Friends: **Mandy Berry** (Hudson's daughter/expecting), **George Bryan** (Joy Wallace's dad), **Margaret Bryson** (Newberry's aunt), **Chastain Family** (friends of the Cox's), **Chris Daugherty** (Daugherty's son), **Erica Davis' Baby** (K. Finefrock's friend), **Renee Davis** (friend of Harris), **Orpha Dean** (Andy's mom), **Pam Ferguson** (coworker of B. Gunter), **Billie Ferrell** (D. Cassel's mother), **Reta Garrin** (P. McIntyre's sister), **Noah Givens** (Coles's great nephew), **Buddy Glass** (V. Bonny's dad) **Sue McDonald** (cousin of Jalene Davis.), **Barbara Johnson** (coworker of T. Harris), **Judy Lamkin** (P. McIntyre's sister), **Wayne Mashburn** (E. Reece's father), **Tim Mize** (108 Snowmass), **Tim Newby**, **Alline Pace** (K. Wallace's mother), **Delbert & Lillie Shockley** (friends of Heldreth/Harris), **Ben Sharp** (Bette's grandson/Coma), **Glenda Tate** (400 S. Ranchwood, Lot 105, 350-6725), **Julian and Coy Wallace** (Joe's parents), **Betty Watts** (s-i-l of Wayne Watts), **Mary White** (B. Myers mother), **Daniel Yancy**, (21 year old great nephew of Judy Scroggins), **Wilma and Charles Yarbrough** (L. Perry's parents), **Wrestling Team from Sloan Iowa**.

Family and Friends with Cancer: **Arthur Anthony** (brother of E. Hughes), **Newman Bradford** (C. Onley's brother), **John Broach** and **Virginia Broach** (Fred's parents), **Gary Brawner** (Patrick's dad), **Ron Clemmens** (Brian's dad), **Wilbur Cravey** (C. Mayhan's father), **Madison Evans** (B. Gunters niece), **Norman High** (C. Montgomery's dad), **Don Hooper** (T. Addington's father), **Judy Hurt** (V. Stephen's sister), **Tara Johnson** (friend of C&J Beck), **Carol Karguth** (V. Stephens mother), **Sandra Leist** (P. McIntyre's sister), **Marvin McCathern** (Floyd's brother), **Sue McDonald** (J. Davis' cousin), **Gerald Morgan** (b-i-l of A. Morgan), **Vonda McPherson** (N. Heldreth's cousin), **Doris Rimel** (Steves mother), **Kenneth Roberts** (Cindi Stump's uncle), **Bob Schmidt** (J&P Cox's uncle), **Tommy Schultz** (b-i-l of A & L Bratcher), **Bobby Shook** (brother of Myrtle McCathern), **AJ Smith** (friend of Deason's), **Frances Stinnett** (Lara Davis' mother), **Paul Taylor** (Onleys b-i-l), **Marilyn Tulley**, liver cancer (cousin of Ken Bennett), **John Walker** (A. Williams dad), **Nancy Weddle** (M. Shipp's friend), **Daniel Yancey** (Scroggins nephew).

On Hospice Care: **Isabel Allen** (mother of Marilyn Dean)

Activated Military Personnel: **Daniel Alvarez** (cousin to Kristi Finefrock), **Robert "Butch" Crain** (brother of S. Easter), **Brian Childers** (friend of J. Hughs), **Ricardo Curbelo** (cousin to Kristi Finefrock), **Jeremy Lassiter** (J. Mayhan's friend), **Chan Aaron** (M. Hughs' brother), **Chris Harrell** (son of Pamela Hayes).



God and You: A Team of Two

Another super Team of Two: God and You. That is "you" as a couple. "You" as united. "You" as one flesh. God and you are a Team of Two. At least, you should be. We love to read, "I will be with you always." We love the fact that since he is for us, nothing can be against us. Are we for God? Have we promised to be with him always?

Do you, as a couple, partner with God to accomplish his work in the world? Do you really mean it when you pray, "Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10)? If your heart says "yes" to that question, but you look in your couple mirror and don't see Christ reflected, what can you do?

Begin by having a real transparent conversation with each other and with God, confessing the failures of the past and vowing to have a fruitful future! Then, move out of the past and toward the future by creating a vision out of which you can develop a mission for your renewed partnership with God. What do you, as a couple, feel drawn to get your hands on that brings God's heavenly will to earth? How can you get your fingerprints on a ministry that God is behind? What do you sense needs to change that you just know you have the ability to influence positively and you know Christ would do if he was here?

We are the body of Christ. Paul called us, the "fullness of him who fills everything in every way" (Ephesians 1:23). Ever known a healthy body and head that didn't partner up for good? Since we are his fullness, we seek to do what he would do. What work of God needs your attention? How do you think God wants things around you to be different? Since your marriage mirrors your relationship with God, what's missing in the reflection that you will change soon? Determine it and then pursue it!

Richard and JeannaLynn



The Joy of Sharing

We have several family traditions we honor during the Holiday Season. One of those is the family gathers not long after Thanksgiving for the decorating of the Christmas tree and watching the timeless classic, "Santa Claus is coming to town".

In case you need reminding the main character in this movie is Kris Kringle who was raised by the Kringle family of the north pole. This family was toy makers and enjoyed giving their toys to the children of the local town, but due to the Burgermeister, all toys were banned from the children and therefore the Kringle family did not know what to do with all their toys they had made. Kris volunteered to distribute the toys because he knew that the toys would bring the children joy. Faced with challenges in getting the toys to the children, Kris Kringle never gave up no matter the cost.

There are many reasons why this movie has become a classic. Perhaps the main one is that when there is a need to share with others so that they too can experience the joy of the gift then we must never give up no matter the cost.

We as Christians have been given a glorious gift and we have the responsibility to share with others (cf. Mark 16:15-16).

Stay strong and stay true South Yukon.

Gene

Teen News

Teens Christmas caroling and lights in the park - following evening services. Meet in the teen room.

Keith Lancaster's "Praise & Harmony Workshop"

April 4-5, 2009

Fire Victims

Kim Adams' co/workers family (Mario and Desirae Calderon) lost their home and everything in it to a fire. If you would like to help in any way, please call Kim at 464-2267.

Mario - Shirts/XXL, Jeans/38, Shoes/11.5

Desirae - Shirts/XL, Jeans/14, Shoes/8

Nate (3 yrs old) - Clothes/4T, shoes/8

Lalaurie (1 yr old) - Clothes/2T or 24 months, Shoes/5.5



Who Told Us...?

- That we are supposed to be comfortable as followers of Jesus? (See Matthew 8:20)
- That following Jesus is easy? (See Luke 9:23)
- That following Jesus is "free"? (See Luke 14:28)
- That following Jesus is a matter of our convenience? (See Matthew 19:16-22)
- That worship is the end result? (See Matthew 28:18-20)
- That tradition is more important than scripture? (See Matthew 15:8-9)

It is easy to buy into a false concept of an easy faith. This is especially true in places where "going to church" is normal behavior. Yet, as we read the above verses we see that following Jesus is not, nor was it ever intended to be "easy."

It was not easy for Jesus to leave heaven. It was not easy for Jesus to empty himself of his "God-ness." It certainly was not easy for him to endure the crucifixion and separation from his eternal Father. Yet, he endured all of this and more for our sakes. Since the "servant is not above the master," why do I think I will have it easy? Why do I think that all of the pieces will easily fall together for me? Why is it that I think I can give minimal effort and get maximum results?

It is not an easy road that we have chosen. HOWEVER, in the long run it pays off with a God-honoring life now and in eternity. Remember that this great reward requires nothing less than our greatest effort (see Matthew 22:37-39).

Keep the Light Burning!

Perry

Midweek Devotional

Tuesday
7:00pm

All meet in the Auditorium.

Ministry Spotlight

Involvement

Deacon - Lynn Groves
Elder - Joe Wallace

The goal of the Involvement Ministry is to help identify and implement mechanisms that encourage members to find ways to become involved in a Ministry of their choosing; at a level of involvement and in ways that utilize their gifts and talents; and that offers ways for them to explore new and different ways to serve God. Further, it is to help in the creation of an environment where Discipleship becomes the focus of our fellowship and the Ministries that spring from it. Lynn Groves is the Deacon who leads the Involvement Ministry and Joe Wallace is the supporting Shepherd.

Perry



CHURCH OF CHRIST SOUTH YUKON

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Website www.southyukon.org

Bible Class 9:00 am
Worship 10:00 am
Sunday Evening 5:00 pm
Wednesday Evening 7:00 pm

Ministry Staff

Preaching

Richard May 577-2960
richard@southyukon.org

Associate Minister

Perry Greene 265-0011
perry.greene@southyukon.org

Elders

Ken Davidson 850-2599
Marvin Keele 491-9063
Walt McGaugh 354-9467
Rick Riebe 354-5880
Mel Schaefer 354-7533
Lloyd Stephens 354-8670
Barry Stump 354-9334
Joe Wallace 354-1673

Missionaries

Fishers of Men

Darrell & Jean O'Rourke

SEARCH TV

Mack Lyon

Adventures in Missions

Pat & Malissa Sheaffer

South Africa Bible School

Al & Donna Horne

South Africa

Austin, Gabriel and Lucky

Brazil

Mel & Marly Latorre

Thailand

Kim & Rebecca Voraritskul

Ecuador

Julio Perez, Luis Andrango, Armando Troya

Kent & Sharla Marcum

Guadalajara

Cory & Toni Burns

Statistics

Attendance

Bible Classes: 362
Worship A.M.: 558
Worship P.M.: 144
Home Group 77
Worship P.M.Total 221
Wednesday 321
Daily Bible Readers: 78
Present Membership: 617

Contribution

Last Week: \$16,472
Budget Requires: \$15,922

Family Matters



Thank You

Dear Church Family, I can't begin to thank you enough for the kindness and the blessing you have bestowed upon me and my family this holiday season. What a tremendous gift you have shared. God always provides for us when we have a need. You are truly a testament to that. Bless you and again thank you. Michelle Dustin and boys

Thank you for the kindness and generosity shown to me. It was very much appreciated. God Bless you, Cynthia Sipes

Thank you so much for sending me the boxes of goodies and supplies, and also for the thoughts and prayers. It means so much to me to know that there are so many people back home and especially back HOME in the great state of OKLAHOMA that are thinking about us and praying for us while we are over here. Sincerely, SSG Eric Sharp, US Army (Bette Sharp's grandson **Note:** to read more of his letter, look on the bulletin board by the office)

To the teens and their parents, Debbie and I would like to thank each and every one of you from the bottom of our hearts for the thoughtfulness of the gift given to us last week. May God bless you in every way. In Christ, Gene and Debbie Newberry

We would like to thank all of those who helped us move. Thanks to the Leaman's for all the boxes, Yvonne for the delicious meal, Jennie Lockhart for the cookies, Britt, Evan, Mack, Keith, Joe Tess, Becky West, the Engle's, Stump's, Riebe's, Welch's, Wallace's, and our children. Our hearts were so touched by the turn out. What a blessing to have such a wonderful Christian family! We love you, Mel and Doris Schaefer

KFC INFO

All KFC will meet in the fellowship Hall TODAY at 1:00 p.m. to decorate ornaments and then go caroling at Nina Willingham's. We should be back at the building by 3:30 p.m.

Bring all old greeting cards

Jalene Davis asks that you please save all your used greeting cards (any occasion) and put them in the basket in the foyer to send to a children's home for their use.

Communion Prep and Greeters Needed
Please sign up on the list on the bulletin board if you can help for the new year.

LTC Note

Service and Devotional challenge forms are available on the table in the foyer. If you have any questions see Jennie Lockhart.

Mini Directory

Mini Directories are in and available in the foyer. One per family please.

Book Reading Club

Check out the Marriage Ministry table for information about a book reading club!

Ladies Unity Team

Sunday, January 4th after morning services in the Fellowship Hall.

12 Hours of Prayer

Your church family would like to rejoice with you. If you submitted a prayer request during our 12 Hours of Prayer and you feel your prayer has been answered and would like to share that answer with us, please contact Jason Engle. We would like to include this in the bulletin and/or relay it to the congregation, which ever you prefer.

Holiday Schedule

Tuesday, December 23rd - Midweek Devotional
(No services, Wednesday, December 24)

Tuesday, December 30th - We will meet with the Lakehoma and Soldier Creek Congregations, at the Lakehoma Church of Christ (2124 W. Hwy 152, Mustang) at 7:00pm, for an end of the year devotional.
(No services Wednesday, December 31)



This Weeks Pantry Need

Peanut Butter and Jelly
(please place in basket in foyer)