



The church of Christ

# at Grandview Pines

*December 18, 2011*

## *What About Christmas?*

*By Ron Boatwright*

How did December 25th come to be celebrated? Christmas originated as a pagan religious holiday. Ancient Roman pagans first introduced the holiday of Saturnalia which was a week long period of lawlessness celebrated December 17-25. The ancient Greek writer and historian, Lucian, describes the festival Saturnalia holiday observance as the time when pagans honored their god, Saturn. Each Roman community selected a victim whom they forced to indulge in food and other physical pleasures throughout the week. At the festival's conclusion on December 25th the innocent victim was brutally murdered. In addition to the human sacrifice there was widespread intoxication, gambling, and sexual indulgence, with people going from house to house naked while singing (a precursor of modern caroling).

In the fourth century AD, "so-called Christianity" imported the Saturnalia festival hoping to lure the pagan masses to accept Christianity and promising them they could continue to celebrate Saturnalia as Christians. So man takes this disgusting pagan holiday and makes it the supposed birthday of Christ. The problem is there is nothing Christian about Saturnalia. The earliest Christmas holidays were celebrated by drinking, sexual indulgence, and singing naked in the streets. Some holiday?

We do rejoice that Christ was born of a virgin just as God promised in Isaiah 7:14. But we rejoice even more "that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures" (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). The word "Christmas" is not in the Bible. The Bible has absolutely nothing to say about December 25th as the birthday of Christ.

December 25th is the least likely day of the year for Christ to have been born. We read in Luke 2:8 of the angel of the Lord appearing to the "shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night". Shepherds would not be keeping watch over their flocks in the fields at night in Palestine in December and January because it is usually cold and rainy. With the shepherds tending their flocks at night in the field indicates Jesus was born during the warmer seasons. If God wanted us to know the date of Christ's birth, He would have told us in the Bible. God has not authorized us to celebrate Christmas as a religious holiday.

For most of the religious world, Christmas has been set aside by man as a "holy day" to celebrate the birth of Christ. Theatrical and dramatic performances entertain large crowds of people attending Christmas church services, but they don't come back any other time of the year. People want to celebrate Christmas as Christ being a babe in a manger and when Christmas is over they want to put Him in a box until next year and live their lives the rest of the year as they please. Many people celebrate Christmas with drunken parties, just as the pagans celebrated Saturnalia. Christmas is about pleasing men and not God. What do you think God thinks of all of this? In Galatians 4:10-11 Paul is condemning the Christians at Galatia for observing religious days without God's

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## *Welcome to the services of the Grandview Pines church of Christ*

We are thankful to be able to gather to worship our God (John 4:24). Visitors, please take time to fill out a card and place it in the collection plate. If you have questions about what you see or hear we would be glad to answer them after the service. We hope all leave edified and uplifted.

## News, Notes & Nouncements

### *3rd Sunday*

This evening's worship will emphasize singing, prayer and scripture reading.

### *Fellowship Dinner & Game Night*

Sunday evening after services we will have soup and chili in the fellowship room downstairs. Also bring games if you would like.

### *Upcoming Youth Events*

- December 18th - **Youth Devo** @ GvP
- January 8th - **Area Wide Devo** @ Redland Road congregation
- February 12th - **Area Wide Devo** @ Grandview Pines congregation
- February 24-26 - **Challenge Youth Conference**

### *Creation/Evolution Debate*

The recent debate will be made available on DVD. More info will come.

### *Cell Phone Usage*

Please silence cell phones so our worship services will not be interrupted. Please do not be disrespectful to God and those assembled by sending or receiving messages during class and worship. Thank you for your help in this matter.

### *Ladies Retreat*

January 20th - 21st. Money needs to be turned in by January 11th to Jason and Myra Hall.

### *Soles for Souls*

We have set up a collection box for shoes for the less fortunate. Please assist in this community service project. Please see Levi Colquitt or Christopher May for more information.

### *Downstairs Fellowship Hall*

To prevent any unfortunate accidents, please help us keep children away from the construction downstairs. They do not need to be down there unsupervised.

### *Barnabas Board*

We want to encourage everyone to use the board in the foyer for posting notes of edification, thanks, etc.

### *Youth Devotional Sign-up List*

A new sign-up sheet for our fourth Sunday youth devotionals has been placed in the foyer. We also have a sign-up sheet for the men who are willing to give the devotionals.

### *Our Shut-Ins*

Please take the time to call, visit, or send a card to our Shut-Ins.

**Linda Bush** - Prattville Rehab & Nursing Home, RM 212.

**Katie King** - Room 308, 95 Charlton Place, Old Prattville Hwy. 290-2966

### *Shut In Communion Sign-Up List*

A sign-up list for taking communion to our shut-ins is posted in the foyer.

Please help us serve our shut-ins in this manner. (James 1:27)

### *Bible Study*

#### **Sunday Morning**

Topic: The book of Philippians.

Teacher: George Vinson

#### **Wednesday Night**

Topic: The book of John

Teacher: Terry Claunch

#### **Monthly - January 13th @ 6:30pm**

Topic: How to Study your Bible

Teacher: George Vinson

### *Lord's Supper Sign-Up List*

Ladies don't forget to sign up to prepare the Lord's Supper for 2012.

### *Ladies Class*

Will be starting back on Jan. 11th.

## *Do You Know Your Bible?*

*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. — 2 Timothy 2:15*

**This Week's Question:**

**Answer to Last Week's Question**

**What passages in the New Testament teach about worshipping God by singing?**

## *Bulletin Updates, Changes & Removal of Names*

Don't forget to let us know if prayer list or other bulletin information needs to be changed.

**Please email Trey Harvell by Friday night. [trey.harvell@gmail.com](mailto:trey.harvell@gmail.com)**

## Prayer List

... but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. — *Philippians 4:6*

(in alphabetical order by last name)

**Wayne Abernathy** (Pansy Weldon's brother) Crown Health Care—adverse reaction to cancer treatment.

**Brandon Arnold** - (Friend of Caleb Colquitt) Father passed away.

**Beverly Barrett** - (Friend of Goldens) Awaiting a kidney for transplant at UAB.

**Tim Bayles** (Toni Colquitt's brother)

**Don Brannan** - diagnosed with cancer. He is an elder at Eastern Meadows.

**Martha Bixler** - She is doing better.

**Lee Bowren** - (A. Sadler's mother) in nursing home in Heber Springs, AR.

**Hulon Cooper and his wife Barbara** - (B. Little's family) In motorcycle accident, sister-in-law broke her leg.

**Jackie Cooper** - (B. Little's family)

**Rickey Cooper** - (B. Little's family)

**Russell Cooper** - (B. Little's family)

**Jerry Davidson** - (Director of Guyana missions) Parkinson's Disease.

**Charles Dobbins** - (friend of the May family) under hospice care.

**Sydney Fuller** - (G. Fuller's bother) has two inoperable aneurisms. Continue to pray for him.

**Addison Hall** - will be seeing another doctor for second opinion.

**Fredrick Harbaugh** - His mother at 93 is dealing with various ailments. Pray that she will be comforted at this time.

**Marilyn Hatcher** - (E. Howard's mother) Returned home from chemo treatments.

**Holley Family** - (Friends of Goldens) Sherry Holley passed away last Saturday. She was a member of the Lightwood congregation.

**Tim Johnson** - (G. Shelton's uncle) is undergoing cancer treatments. Cancer has spread to his liver.

**Rayford Lee** - (J. Sadler's father-in-law)

**Walter & Cheryl May** - (R. May's parents) both facing physical ailments.

**Vera Mixon** - (Myra Hall's grandmother) At home recovering from stroke, health is in decline.

**Ann Morris** - (friend of the Fullers) cancer treatment in NC

**Alen Nix** - (friend of Gwen Shelton) diagnosed with cancer. Will be going to Texas for treatment.

**Martha Pilkinton** - (Glenda Gregory's sister-in-law) terminal cancer.

**Peggy Rice** - (Janice Claunch's mother)

**Holly Sadler** (Jay's wife) diagnosed with diabetes and liver damage.

**Peggy Stabler** - Fourth Stage Kidney Failure

**Carolyn Stanley** - (Coworker of Jeremy and T. Harvell) Undergoing several procedures including spinal surgery over the next few months.

**Tina Tatum** - Home from hospital.

**Mickey Thomas** - (former member) Room 313 Prattville Rehab.

**Amy Turner** - continuing to deal with illness.

**Juanita Waggoner** - (M. Stinson's aunt) advanced stage of Parkinson's Disease.

**Lisa Wright** had surgery this past week. The surgery was more than was planned. She will have further surgery as well.

**Lisa Woodard** (friend of Toni Colquitt)

**Nancy Woodall** (friend of the Moodys) diagnosed with cancer).

**Garrett Young** - heart problems.

### **Military personnel & their families**

- Stewart Burkey - Returning home from Afghanistan
- Joshua Corey - deployed
- David Howard - Afghanistan, address is on the bulletin board if anyone would like to send him a card. Please do not include his rank when addressing the card.
- Britt Shores - Afghanistan

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authorization. "You observe days and months and seasons and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have labored for you in vain."

For man to set up and observe a religious holiday would be adding to the word of God. We are severely warned not to add to what God has said. "If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues written in this book" (Revelation 22:18). Man will lose his soul in Hell by adding to what God has said. We are commanded, "And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus" (Colossians 3:17). To do something in the name of the Lord Jesus is to do it by His authority. Where in the Bible has the Lord authorized us to celebrate Christmas, December 25th or any other day as His birthday?

Since we do not have the authority from the Lord, the Christian should not celebrate Christmas as a religious holiday. A Christian can celebrate Christmas as a secular holiday just as we celebrate Labor Day, Memorial Day, or July 4th, but without any religious significance. We can give gifts, send holiday greetings, decorate, etc., but we have not been authorized to celebrate Christmas as a religious holiday.

*Privileged to Serve  
Sunday Worship Services*

	<b>Today: December 18th</b>	<b>Next Week: December 25th</b>
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**AM Service**

<b>Announcements</b>	Tim Ashley	George Vinson
<b>Song Leader</b>	Tom Young	Jeremy Claunch
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Jeremy Claunch	Robert Golden
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Luke Wright	Glenn Fuller
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Levi Colquitt Matthew 11:28-30	Alex Stinson Hebrews 13:5-6
<b>Lord's Table - Head</b>	Robert Golden	Jim Cox
<b>Lord's Table - Serve</b>	David Conyers Jim Cox Alex Stinson Bryant Weldon	Luke Wright Brandon Gonzalez Ricky Obert Jim Ezekiel

**PM Service**

<b>Announcements</b>	Tim Ashley	George Vinson
<b>Song Leader</b>	Tom Young	Jeremy Claunch
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Lonnie Burkey	Lary Sadler
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Trey Harvell	James Woodruff
<b>Lord's Table</b>	Robert Golden	Jim Cox
<b>3rd Sunday Invitation</b>	George Vinson	

*Sunday Helpers' List*

<b>Foyer Attendant</b>	Sammie Girod	Lonnie Burkey
<b>Greeters</b>	Sammie Girod Bryant Weldon	Jackie Conyers Cliff Cleveland

*Wednesday Bible Study*

	<b>This Week: December 21st</b>	<b>Next Week: December 28th</b>
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<b>Song Leader</b>	Luke Wright	Christopher May
<b>Invitation</b>	Tom Young	Trey Harvell
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Tim Ashley	David Conyers

If you cannot meet your scheduled duty & cannot find a replacement,  
please contact Jim Hammonds.

**Elders:**

Terry Claunch ..... 285-4142  
 Jim Cox ..... 303-0414  
 Glenn Fuller ..... 365-4923  
 Lary Sadler ..... 285-7455  
 George Vinson ..... 262-3440

**Deacons:**

Lonnie Burkey ..... 467-9444  
 Jason Hall ..... 549-1869  
 James Woodruff ..... 285-2947  
 Luke Wright ..... 205-280-6454

**Minister:**

Terry Claunch

Study ..... 285-6327  
 Home ..... 285-4142  
 Cell ..... 313-1539

**Work of Evangelism:**

Home Bible Studies  
 Bible Correspondence Studies  
 Biblical Tracts  
 Staton & Tutwiler Prisons  
 Sermon CDs & Cassettes  
 Gospel Broadcasting Network

**Work of Benevolence:**

Guyana Missions - Summerdale  
 Congregation  
 1st Sun. singing - Autumn Place  
 2nd Sun. singing - Merry Wood Lodge  
 Clothes for Panama  
 Eye Glasses for Thailand  
 Assistance to those in need

**Work of Edification:**

Sunday

Bible Class ..... 9:00 AM  
 Worship ..... 10:00 AM  
 Worship ..... 5:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies' Class ..... 10:30 AM  
 Bible Class ..... 7:00 PM

**Internet**

www.grandviewpineschurch.org  
 contact@grandviewpineschurch.org  
 Look for us on Facebook!

(Grandview Pines church of Christ &  
 Grandview Pines church of Christ Youth)

**Where We Meet**

165 Deatsville Hwy,  
 Millbrook, AL, 36054

**Grandview Pines Church of Christ**  
**PO Box 3**  
**Millbrook, AL 36054**