

Rejoicing From the Hills

"The little hills rejoice on every side."

-Psalm 65:12b-

Vol. 21, No. 1

A Publication of the North Hills Bible Church

January, February, 2013

Theme for 2013

God's Involvement in the Affairs of Men

Psalm 107:8,15,21,31



In 2012 we looked at the testimony of God in the lives of His saints. Our emphasis was primarily on the lives of men and how they lived in a way that pleased God and provided a dynamic testimony for Him.

In 2013, we are going to turn our attention directly to God and look at how He involves Himself personally in the affairs of men.

In Judges 6:13, Gideon expressed his scepticism about God's continuing attention to the needs of men. He said, *Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? And where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? But now the LORD hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.* There were terrible things happening in Gideon's day and it

seemed to him that God had forsaken them.

There are many terrible things happening in our world today and it may appear to many that God is just not involved. But God works in the affairs of men in many ways. The Bible is full of testimonies regarding how He has done this in the past and promises of how He will do this in the future. From all of these testimonies, we can make some observations about how God is at work in the affairs of men today.

In the process we will observe many things about the person of God Himself, what He is like, how He feels, and how He reacts to the actions of men.

The benefits of this study will encourage us to set aside any scepticism we may share with Gideon and live everyday with the confidence that God is very much aware of what is going on and very much involved in fulfilling His promises to mankind. 📖

Congregation Meeting January 27

The annual congregation meeting will be held Sunday, January 27 after the morning service. If the weather is bad it will be held the following Sunday.

The agenda will consist of accepting the budget for 2013 and the reaffirmation of two Elders, Don Snyder and Gerald Cook. 📖

Ladies Missionary Project

January 26

Our church ladies and teen girls will again do a winter project for our missionaries. Saturday, January 26th at 10:00 a.m. we will meet in the fellowship hall to cut out Betty Lukens flannel figures for our missionaries, the Mosses, before they leave for Uganda in February. Please bring scissors that can cut flannel.

Time will be spent in prayer for all of our missionaries and then we will have lunch together and continue our fellowship as we enjoy the dish each lady brings to share.

If the weather is bad we will meet the first Saturday in February.

You may also volunteer to take pieces home and cut them out to return no later than Wednesday, February 6th.

Please View Our Website

Please see pictures of our church activities on our website at www.northhillsbiblechurch.org and click on the "Resources" link and find "Current Issue".

A GOSPEL MESSAGE FOR YOU

Have you asked Jesus Christ to save you? If not, will you accept Him as your Saviour now? The following will explain what you need to do.

1. **ADMIT THAT YOU ARE A SINNER.** The Bible says, "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23
2. **KNOW THAT GOD HAS ALREADY PROVIDED FOR YOUR SALVATION.** "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16
3. **KNOW THAT YOU CANNOT SAVE YOURSELF.** "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us." Titus 3:5a
4. **REPENT OF YOUR SIN.** "For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of." II Corinthians 7:10. "Except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish." Luke 13:3
5. **ASK JESUS CHRIST TO SAVE YOU.** "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be **SAVED.**" Romans 10:13. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be **SAVED.**" Acts 16:31
6. **CONFESS JESUS BEFORE MEN.** "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead thou shalt be **SAVED.** For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Romans 10:9-10

If you have any questions or would like further spiritual help, please contact us at the North Hills Bible Church. Our phone number is 757-1316.

Library News

by Brenda Hamme, Librarian

The resources in the library should never be used as a substitute for God's Word and its place in our lives, but are intended to encourage and strengthen us in our walk with the Lord. Look for these new items in the weeks ahead.

Read-Aloud Bible Stories - Vol. 1

Just as the title suggests, this first book in a new series is well suited to read to younger children because of its few words and large, colorful illustrations. The Bible stories included are:

The Man Who Was Too Little
The Man Who Couldn't See
The Boys and Girls and Jesus
The Wind That Obeyed
The Man Who Said, "Thank You"

These two DVDs from THE ANIMATED STORIES FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT cover several events during the earthly ministry of Jesus:

The Parables of Jesus - The Talents, The Rich Man and Lazarus, and The Two Sons teach how to be good stewards of our time and the things that we have been given.

Built Upon the Rock - Jesus affirms the eternal ideals of the Beatitudes, teaches the need to forgive, and emphasizes the important ideals of stewardship and preparedness.

The latest four-CD volume from ADVENTURES IN ODYSSEY, The Grand Design, includes stories about the importance of church, goals and aspirations, tithing, the search for happiness, living out our faith, guilt, responsibility, assumptions, and beauty, truth, and goodness.

Rejoicing From The Hills

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Our Purpose

Soul winning at home and abroad
Bible teaching conducive
to Christian Living

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The Biblical Doctrine of Modesty

Ever since Adam and Eve committed the first sin, modesty has been an issue for mankind. Prior to their sinning, Adam and Eve were not ashamed that they were naked (Genesis 2:25). Clothing was a non issue because their eyes were not opened (Genesis 3:7). They were blissfully innocent and consequence free. All that changed when sin opened their eyes to the nakedness of their bodies. Immediately, modesty became a significant issue for mankind.

Today, modesty continues to be an issue. However, as man has become less and less sensitive to the guilt of sin, man has also become less and less concerned about modesty. Sin and the issue of modesty are inseparably linked. Sin is the direct cause of a consciousness of immodesty. The sensation of immodesty is the first evidence of the presence of guilt for sin. Modesty is then part of the process of dealing with the issue of sin and its consequences in a person's life. If we miss this point, we will not understand why modesty in dress is an important Biblical doctrine and we will not appreciate why some Christians still raise the issue as a matter of importance in the body of Christ.

God Established the Principle of Modesty for Mankind.

The effect on Adam and Eve was immediate. They saw that the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was good for food. They took of the fruit and ate it. In that exact moment, they sinned and died spiritually. It is of paramount importance that also in that exact moment, Adam and Eve became aware of their nakedness and were ashamed of it (Genesis 3:7).

Just as soon as their eyes were opened and they saw that they were naked, they sensed the necessity to cover themselves. So Adam and Eve sewed fig leaves together and made themselves aprons (Genesis 3:7).

The manner in which they covered themselves is significant in that it is expressive of and symptomatic of man's inability to sufficiently deal with sin for himself. First, they used a material that was not durable. Fig leaves are thick, with rough upper surfaces and a soft hairiness. But they are leaves. In a very brief period of time, they would dry out and fall

apart. Secondly, they sewed these leaves together into rather small garments called aprons. Fig leaves are about 5 to 10 inches long and about 4 to 7 inches across and are somewhat in the shape of a hand. The word apron comes from the Hebrew word associated with Strong's number 02290, chagowr. It refers to a girdle, a belt, or a loin-cloth. The idea is that they used something to fashion a belt around their waist from which hung fig leaves to cover a very small portion of their bodies. This was grossly insufficient as demonstrated by what God did for Adam and Eve to replace what they had done for themselves.

When God intervened, He provided something much more substantial. He killed one or more animals and made for each a coat of skins (Genesis 3:21). It is of interest to note at this point that Adam and Eve were not meat eaters. God had ordered their diet to be free of meat (Genesis 1:29). So the meat from these animals would not have been given to them for food. Rather, as the blood of these animals was shed, the meat was most probably offered as a burnt offering (wholly consumed on the fire) unto the Lord to demonstrate to Adam and Eve what was necessary to atone for their sin. This is how Abel later on would know what kind of sacrifice would be pleasing unto the LORD. The skins of the animals were then fashioned by God into coats for Adam and Eve. The word coats comes from the Hebrew word associated with Strong's number 03801, kethoneth. It represents a long shirt like garment that covers the entire body. By using skins, God provided a covering that was durable and long lasting. By making coats, God was telling Adam and Eve that modesty was a whole body issue, not just one that related to particular small parts of the body. By killing animals and shedding blood in order to make these coats, God communicated that sin was a matter of life and death. And by covering the whole body with the coats that were a product of these sacrifices to God, God was making it very clear that sin affected the whole man and the whole man needed to be dealt with, not just particular small parts.

Why Do People Today Resist the Biblical Doctrine of Modesty?

When Adam and Eve saw that they were naked, something very disturbing came over them – they were ashamed (Genesis 2:25 with Genesis 3:7 and 10). Before they sinned they were not ashamed in their nakedness. After they sinned, they immediately covered themselves and then hid themselves from God because they were naked. They recognized the insufficient nature of their aprons and

even though the fig leaves feebly covered small parts of their bodies, Adam and Eve still felt naked before God and tried to further cover their nakedness by hiding from God.

Shame is a painful sensation excited by a consciousness of guilt. The shame for their nakedness that Adam and Eve felt on the outside was a symptom of the guilt they were feeling on the inside. It was emotionally painful, something they had never experienced before, and something they would gladly be rid of. The aprons of fig leaves was their first attempt to rid themselves of this terrible sensation, but it did not work. Hiding from God was their second attempt, but it also miserably failed.

God offered mankind the real solution to their guilt. He provided a blood sacrifice to atone for their sin. He then explained that this was only a temporary gesture designed to anticipate a total redemption that would be provided for all mankind sometime in the future through a Messiah who would come of the seed of woman (Genesis 3:15 and 21). The fact that their son Abel understood the necessity of a blood sacrifice being offered to God is evidence that Adam and Eve understood the message clearly and passed it on. It is of note that the by-product of the blood sacrifice God provided for man also provided a covering for their bodies which eased their sensation of shame.

However, right from the beginning many of Adam and Eve's progeny did not believe this gospel. They sought other ways instead to deal with their sensation of guilt. This practice has been perpetuated throughout all the generations of mankind to the present day and continues to persist.

Some seek to assuage their guilt through their own contrived methods as Cain did with his offering of works. Others try to comfort themselves from the pain of guilt by denying it exists. Whatever approach they take, mankind generally seeks to prove that they are guiltless by pursuing shameful things shamelessly.

It is for this reason that man's rejection of God's gospel of redemption and forgiveness is in direct correlation to man's rejection of the Biblical doctrine of modesty. If the first evidence of guilt for sin is shame for immodesty, then man thinks he can prove he is not guilty by not feeling ashamed in being immodest. No shame, no guilt. This is clearly observable in human society. The less men acknowledge God, the less they are concerned about covering their bodies. Thus in primitive cultures that are totally devoid of any

acknowledgment of God, clothing is almost non-existent. In more civilized cultures, immodesty is displayed in more "sophisticated ways." One of these ways is through fashion in which clothing that is attractive in a worldly sort of way serves little more purpose than the aprons of Adam and Eve. Some of these modern fashions may cover more than the fig leaves did, but they are so form fitting to the body that it seems as though they do not. In another way, man has derived a "morally" acceptable setting in which people may unashamedly in public wear Adamic aprons. These "aprons" are otherwise known today as swim wear. Go to the beach or to the swimming pool and everyone is practically naked. Remember, Adam told God he was naked even though he had covered himself with his fig leaf aprons (Genesis 3:10). And remember that Adam was so ashamed about his nakedness that he hid himself from God. But now, modern day swim wear covers nothing more than Adam and Eve's aprons did and yet almost everyone is comfortable in public being as naked in front of each other as Adam was before God. If Adam's attempts at covering his body were evidence of his guilt for sin, mankind's blatant expressions of immodesty are evidence of their refusal to acknowledge their accountability to God. Whether or not people are able to consciously articulate this, their conscience has been programmed by the depravity of their heart to reason that if they feel no shame in exposing parts or all of their body, they are not guilty before God.

What Are The Effects of Man's Rejection of the Doctrine of Modesty?

The Bible teaches that the type of clothing a person wears has moral implications. For example, Proverbs 7:10 says, *And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart.* This woman was identifiable as an harlot by what she was wearing. In Genesis chapter 38, Judah's widowed daughter-in-law dressed herself as an harlot in order to entice Judah and get back at him for not dealing with her properly. *When Judah saw her, he thought her to be an harlot* (Genesis 38:15). Clearly, what he saw gave the impression that she was an harlot. By contrast, Jeremiah 2:32 speaks of the attire of a bride (compare Isaiah 61:10 and Revelation 21:2). The bride prepares herself for her husband and when anyone looks at her there is no mistaking her for an harlot. Instead she is presented as a pure virgin awaiting her union with her husband (2 Corinthians 11:2). So the Bible teaches that a woman can give the impression of being pure or promiscuous simply by what she is wearing.

Thus the moral implications of personal appearance are part of the Biblical doctrine of modesty. One of these matters is the necessity of maintaining the distinction between men and women. For example, it is immoral and thus immodest for men and women to wear each other's clothing. Deuteronomy 22:5 says, *The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the LORD thy God.* It is clear from this that clothing styles for men and women should be different. Men should dress appropriately to manhood and women should dress appropriately to womanhood. Masculinity and femininity should each be expressed in distinct but modest clothing. Another issue the Bible addresses in the distinction between men and women is the matter of hair length. In Revelation 9:8, the invading locusts of the tribulation times are described as having the hair of women. What is the hair of women as opposed to the hair of men? The Bible consistently describes women's hair as being long: long enough for a woman to wipe Jesus' feet (Luke 7:38), long enough to be broided (woven into pleats as in 1 Timothy 2:9), and long enough to be plaited (braided or gathered into knots as in 1 Peter 3:3). The Bible makes it clear that a woman's long hair is a glory to her and a means of covering for her proper approach unto God (1 Corinthians 11:5-15). In fact, in 1 Corinthians 11:6 the Bible states emphatically that it is a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, that is, to have her hair cut short or to be bald. By contrast, the Bible says that nature itself teaches that it is a shame for a man to have long hair (1 Corinthians 11:14). How does nature teach this? It is a dishonor to a woman to be bald (1 Corinthians 11:5-6, Isaiah 3:24). But for a man baldness is common place and not an issue. Thus for a man short hair is completely appropriate and in fact is modest before God.

Another of these matters raises the issue of how much of the body should be covered to satisfy the Biblical doctrine of modesty. The idea of being naked is connected in Scripture to the concept of shame. Isaiah 47:3 says, *Thy nakedness shall be uncovered, yea, thy shame shall be seen* (Compare Revelation 3:18). It was also considered an act of compassion to provide clothing to those who were found naked (Ezekiel 18:7; Matthew 25:36). But nakedness in the Bible did not always refer to those who were totally unclothed. It also referred to those who were insufficiently clothed. Adam and Eve had on their aprons, but Adam still considered himself naked before God (Genesis 3:10). David danced before the Lord dressed in a linen ephod, but was considered

uncovered in the eyes of the handmaids of his servants (2 Samuel 6:14, 20). The word uncovered is used in other places in the Bible in relationship to the idea of exposing "nakedness" (Leviticus 18:6). What David's wife saw him wearing was offensive to her and in her estimation an inappropriate public display for the eyes of other women. When Peter was fishing and saw Christ on the sea shore, he grabbed his fisher's coat to cover himself because he was naked – not nude, but insufficiently covered to meet the Savior (John 21:7). The word from which "naked" is translated in this case means, "clad in undergarments only (the outer garments or cloak being laid aside). In other words, Peter had his outer garment off in the company of his fellow fishermen on a boat some distance from shore while he was conducting his commercial fishing business. He was out of sight from public view. But in order to make a social visit with Christ, Peter's immediate and instinctive reaction was to properly cover his body. What was this fisher's coat that Peter put on? It was an outer garment that covered the entire body. The conclusion we must draw from records like these in the Bible is that God's standard of modesty is the same today as it was when He made coats for Adam and Eve. As far as God is concerned, the body is not sufficiently covered for public view unless it is completely covered.

And then there is the matter of dressing appropriately when worshiping God. When the Israelites were at Mt. Sinai, God told Moses he was to sanctify the people so that He could speak to them from the top of the mountain. In this instruction to Moses, God specified that the people were to wash their clothes as part of their preparation for standing before Him (Exodus 19:10). From God's own mouth, it is clear that even the condition of our clothing should be considered when we are preparing to worship Him. In this case, we should be sure to wear clean clothing. In another case, special garments were prepared which were to be worn by the priests to fulfill their priestly duties (Exodus 28, 39, Leviticus 8:13). This too was by direct instruction from God, which is a clear indication that God considered clothing to be an important matter for those who served before Him. The connection between the Old Testament priests in Israel and the members of the body of Christ in the New Testament is intentional. In 1 Peter 2:5 and 9, believers in the church are called an holy and a royal priesthood. God selected the term "priesthood" to describe believers in the church because He wanted us to see ourselves with very similar responsibilities before Him as were true of those Old Testament priests. He described us with the duties of offering up

spiritual sacrifices and showing forth the praises of Him who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. If anyone thinks that these things can be properly done without being properly dressed, he does not understand how God thinks. How we present ourselves to Him is very important. How we are dressed is part of that presentation because in the mind of God, how we dress is a reflection of the moral condition of our inner man.

This is why God connects our spiritual and moral condition to the concept of clothing. In Isaiah 64:6, He says that all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags. The word rags is not like the pieces of cloth a mechanic uses to wipe grease from his hands. Rather, it is the same word that is translated "garment" 107 times in the Old Testament. He is saying that the righteousness we try to generate from ourselves is so worthless that it is equivalent to dirty clothing. (This tells you what God thinks of dirty clothing.) On the other hand, those who come out of the great tribulation in the future have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb (Revelation 7:14). God uses clothing to describe how a believer is adorned when He says, *for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation and he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness* (Isaiah 61:10). And the Bride of Christ is described in glorious clothing as she has made herself ready for the divine wedding: *and to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints* (Revelation 19:7-8).

How Should A Believer Apply The Doctrine of Modesty to His Christian Life?

Present day Christians should be concerned about how they dress for two reasons: God and people. Casual dress has become the norm for worship services in churches all around the globe. And immodest fashion is the trademark of the people of this world. Sincere believers should be concerned about both of these things and react with clothing that more properly reflects the Biblical doctrine of modesty.

In worshiping God, the true believer should be concerned about his presentation before the Lord. Clothing worn to church services should be clean and special. As God ordered the Israelites to wash their clothes before approaching Him, and as He ordered special clothing to be worn by the priests, we should see the implied principles in these things and consider seriously how we dress to attend church, wearing

clean clothes and special clothes carefully selected for this occasion.

For the believer, the matter of clothing should go beyond just how we dress to worship. All New Testament believers in Christ are priests and we are always in the presence of God who dwells in our bodies. How we dress should be reflective of our respect for the righteousness of God with which we have been clothed by our faith in Jesus Christ (Romans 3:21-22). No where in the Bible is immodesty reflective of the righteousness of God. While work clothes and play clothes are certainly appropriate for such respective activities, we should wear even these clothes with a modesty that is appropriate to our identification with a holy God.

We must also understand that while God does look on the heart, people can only see our outward appearance (1 Samuel 16:7). If believers dress according to the immodest standards of the world, how can we ever show any difference that Christ makes for one who believes in Him. Our words of witness will be muffled by the immodesty of our bodies. And, the immodesty of our bodies will identify us with a world that seeks only to prove that they are not guilty before God because they are not ashamed to publicly display their bodies in an immodest fashion. If believers are unashamed of immodesty, how do we communicate the guilt of an immodest heart before God?

The worldly heart, whether in an unbeliever or a believer, resists any suggestion about what we ought to wear. Against those who attempt to suggest a dress code, they throw such accusations as judgmentalism and legalism. Don't judge me, they say, and tell me that I have to dress a certain way in order to be acceptable to God. At the same time, the worldly heart chooses fashion for their body as a statement of who they are. You cannot have it both ways. You can't dress with a fashion statement intended to publically proclaim your identity and then not expect that people will recognize your moral identity by what you are wearing. The fact is, what a person wears really does say a lot about him. It is not judgmental or legalistic to suggest that believers should wear clothing that makes a fashion statement about his faith and redemption. This is exactly the intent of Scripture when women are admonished to *adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works*

(1 Timothy 2:9-10). In other words, it is inappropriate for a believer to have a fashion statement that brings attention to himself making a worldly impression. Rather, a believer's personal appearance should equal their profession of godliness.

Thus, what a believer wears on his body says a lot about what is in his heart. He either accepts the world's attempt to deny their accountability to God by unashamedly going "naked" (insufficiently covered) in public. Or, he shows his respect for a holy God and his gratefulness for the righteousness of Jesus Christ with which we have been clothed by faith. If believers dress immodestly they fail to make a very important moral and symbolic connection between guilt for sin and the message of the gospel. Our words of witness will have a much greater impact if the visual aid of our personal appearance agrees with the things we are saying. And thus the instruction of 1 Peter 3:3-5 which says, *Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; but let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves....*

Conclusion

So what is the practical application of these Biblical truths concerning the way we should dress as the people of God? Clothing styles are always changing. It has always been so. A brief survey of the way people have dressed throughout history will show that there has hardly ever been a time or a culture when clothing styles remained perfectly constant for really long periods of time. So how do we define appropriate dress standards when the clothing that is available is always changing?

First, we must maintain the distinction between men and women. In Bible times, men and women both wore garments consisting of skirts. Still, the difference between the genders in clothing styles was clearly distinct since God said men and women should not wear each other's clothing (Deuteronomy 22:5). Gender identity in personal appearance is very important in the eyes of God and so should it be in ours.

Second, the body must be sufficiently covered in order to be modest. Since God made garments that covered the whole body, this is a good standard to

begin with. Instead of asking how much of the body we can expose and still be modest, we should be asking how much exposing of the body does it take to be immodest. The Biblical standard is very simple: the more skin you see the less modest it is, and the less skin you see the more modest it is. The most crucial question that each of us must answer is: how modest is modest enough for God?

Third, we must consider the effectiveness of our witness when deciding what to wear. When someone sees how I am dressed, what connection is made in their minds? Do they connect me with the worldly heart who rejects the idea of accountability to God? Or do they connect me with the righteousness of God that is pure and holy? Do they see me as a harlot or a bride?

Fourth, we must consider whether our level of modesty is sufficient to honor God Himself. Am I as a believer-priest in Jesus Christ appropriately respecting God in my worshiping and serving Him by dressing in a fashion that is reflective of His holiness?

Finally, we must accept the symbolism intended by God in "putting off the garments" of the world and "putting on the garments" of true righteousness by wearing clothing that outwardly reflects what is happening inwardly as we grow in Christ. In Ephesians 4:22-24, God uses the terms for undressing and dressing to describe the process of sanctification in a believer's life. He says, *that ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; and be renewed in the spirit of your mind; and that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.* The Biblical doctrine of modesty is that what we wear morally and symbolically reflects the spiritual condition of our lives. As Adam's guilt for sin was directly linked to his shame in being immodest, so our joy in being forgiven should be reflected in our desire to be as modest as possible in the way we dress. 📖



Preschoolers

taught by Mrs. Moss

Naturally our Bible stories in December were about Jesus coming to earth. As the decree was made for all people to go to their hometown to be taxed, the children "traveled" with Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem and found there was no room in the inn. And so baby Jesus was born in a smelly barn where animals were. What a lowly place for the King of Kings to be born. The children also "went with" the shepherds to worship the perfect Lamb of God, and enjoyed "bringing" gifts on a long journey across the desert along with the wisemen.

They learned the wonderful truth from Matthew 1:21 that He was called Jesus, *"for He shall save His people from their sins"*.

Primaries

taught by Mr. and Mrs. Smith

The primary class is continuing their study of Moses, leading the Israelites to the promised land. God gives us many lessons that we can learn from studying this journey. Oh, how often we grumble and complain just as the Israelites. How sad it is when we stop and reflect and see how blessed we are and yet we grumble.

God provides for us all that we need. We had a special Thanksgiving class with the Juniors. We used a donut to remind us to look at the donut and not the hole. We are so guilty of looking at what we don't have instead of being thankful with what we have been blessed.

We finished memorizing Psalm 103:8-15. Hannah and Rebecca Wertz were able to whiz right through the passage word perfect. Grace Balcom, Matthew Kanost and Hannah Ortiz were also able to recite the verses. The children also continue to learn some sign language that they use as they recite their verses. They do a wonderful job!

Juniors

taught by Mr. and Mrs. Cook

We have been studying the lives of Saul and David. What a difference in obedience! God said He would bless the reign of Saul, if he would obey Him; but Saul chose to do things his own way. David obeyed God and was given great blessings from the Lord, including the promise of the coming Messiah. Of course, our students especially enjoyed the story of David and Goliath. And as Christians, we are so thankful that man sees the outside, but God sees the heart. Since David was known as the great psalmist of Israel, we have been learning to sing some of the Psalms from the Bible.

Our students have been doing a great job of memorizing I Corinthians 13 and learning to sign some of it.

Master Clubs

Director - Nathaniel Wertz

This fall, the Ambassador class has been working on a missionary badge. This badge requires the clubber to contact a missionary and find out prayer requests. They must also do some research about the country and people that are being ministered to. They are currently preparing oral reports to give to their class about the missionary they choose.

Master Clubs, as a group, had a missionary emphasis week. We learned about the Philippines and the work that the Liviocos do. Each student then made a card to send to the Liviocos. We also had a story about George Muller and his prayer life. The children learned the power of prayer and how they can pray for each of our missionaries.

Please pray that God would move in the hearts of our young people. Also, pray that parents would be encouraging the children to follow God, no matter where He leads them.

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Please see pictures of our church activities on our website at [www.northhillsbiblechurch.org](http://www.northhillsbiblechurch.org) and click on the "Resources" link and find "Current Issue".





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## Quizzing

by Quiz Coach, Mrs. Moss

Each Wednesday before we start our Bible study, we share prayer requests and pray for one another. It is a blessing to hear the teens pray for their friends and see God's answer to prayer.

The book of James, which we are studying this year, explains to us how important it is for good works to accompany our faith in Christ. It is in this way that our faith is shown to be genuinely from the heart and not just having a head knowledge. Even the "devils believe and tremble", so obviously anyone can say they have faith; but sincere faith in Christ will be manifested by good works. Pray for the teens as they try to apply the things they are learning in quizzing to their daily lives.

The first competition with other churches will be on January 27. Our church will be hosting the second competition here on February 24. We look forward to these times of being challenged with quick recall of the material we have studied.

## HOMESCHOOL NEWS

Led by Dawn Balcom

IN NOVEMBER the youngest group of children learned about the musical composer, Handel. They also completed a Thanksgiving craft and did leaf rubbings.

The middle group (2nd-6th grade) learned about different baskets, weaving techniques and how

baskets were used in the Bible. Using a plate the children made a basket using a variety of textured and colored yarn. Gym class was a noncompetitive circuit of skills enjoyed by all of them. This involved crab crawling, trampoline jumping, burlap bag jumping and cone weaving. Sign language skills are incorporated into all these activities.

The teen boys had a Chemistry lab on combustion. They got to set a dollar bill on fire without burning it, compared how quickly different common chemicals burn, watched soap bubbles catch on fire, and watched water on fire. They also got to watch Mr. Cook fire a "corn starch" cannon that blew the lid off a coffee can, and saw a coffee creamer fireball.

IN DECEMBER we went Christmas caroling to some of the shut-ins from our church. The kids had a great time singing at Autumn House to a group of about 25 residents, then we sang at the Feltenbergers, the Coles, and the Hammes. What a blessing the children were as they sang about the birth of our Savior.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



### JANUARY

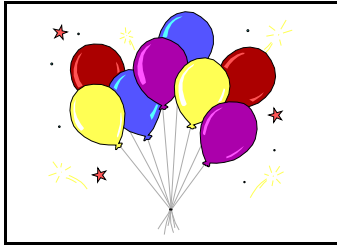
|    |                                 |          |
|----|---------------------------------|----------|
| 6  | Teen Bible Quiz Demonstration   | 7:00 PM  |
| 10 | Homeschool Classes              | 9-12 AM  |
| 13 | Pleasant Acres Service          | 1:45 PM  |
| 15 | Trustees' Meeting               | 6:30 PM  |
| 16 | TAP Ministry                    | 8:00 AM  |
| 19 | Teens Snow Tubing Activity      | 4:00 PM  |
| 21 | Rescue Mission Service          | 8:00 PM  |
| 24 | Homeschool Field Trip           |          |
| 26 | Ladies Missionary Project       | 10:00 AM |
| 27 | Congregation Meeting            | 12:15 PM |
| 27 | Teen Bible Quizzing Competition | 2 - 4 PM |



### FEBRUARY

|    |                                 |          |
|----|---------------------------------|----------|
| 7  | Homeschool Classes              | 9-12 AM  |
| 17 | Manor Care Service              | 1:45 PM  |
| 18 | Rescue Mission Service          | 8:00 PM  |
| 19 | Trustees' Meeting               | 6:30 PM  |
| 21 | Homeschool Field Trip           |          |
| 24 | Teen Bible Quizzing Competition | 2 - 4 PM |

# Church Family News



## Happy Birthday

### January

- 9 - Jim Beath
- 10 - Brandon Byers
- 15 - Cindy Smith
- 15 - Lisa Smith
- 16 - Ryan Knuth
- 17 - Lorraine Beath
- 18 - Joe Feltenberger
- 18 - **Eunice Livio**
- 20 - Romaine Feltenberger
- 23 - Chris Knuth
- 26 - Shigeko Hall
- 29 - Jim Hall

### February

- 4 - Matthew Krape
- 5 - **Andrew Perrott**
- 5 - Tanisha Smith
- 6 - Paul Grove
- 7 - Pat Rudisill
- 9 - Earl Morrow
- 13 - Joan Fink
- 13 - Vernon Shields
- 15 - Glenda Hamme
- 15 - Nathaniel Wertz



## Happy Anniversary

### January

- 11 - Greg & Shirley Beard

### February

- 3 - **Marc & Judi Blackwell**
- 12 - Ervin & Sue Kornbau
- 16 - Gene & Sherry Beam

### Please Note!

The purpose of printing these lists is to give the church family an opportunity to congratulate one another on these special days. The **bold print** indicates a member of our missionary family.



Please see pictures of our church activities on our website at [www.northhillsbiblechurch.org](http://www.northhillsbiblechurch.org) and click on the "Resources" link and find "Current Issue".



A Very Blessed New Year to all with Christ at the center of your life. And remember, the task ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us, for Philippians 4:13 reminds us "I can do all things through Christ which strengthen me."

## Congratulations



Marc and Judie Blackwell are the proud grandparents of Jesse Dean, born to Deon and Michelle (Blackwell) Rensberg on November 14, 2012.

## Remember Our Shut-ins



Lorraine Beath, Jean Beck, Bessie Boyer, Ken & Mary Cole, Joe Feltenberger, Jeannie Geesey, Marlene Gladfelter, Pam Grove, Glenda Hamme, Gloria Hevner, Susan Peters, Ivy Pyle, Sara Sipe, Reg Stelfox, Marian Tawney, Hilda Wallace, Elmira Wise

# Master Clubs



Opening.



Game Time.



Book Time.

“Little Lambs” - K-4 and K-5.



“Ambassadors” - 4 - 6 grade.



“Lookouts” - 1<sup>st</sup> grade, “Spotters” - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, “Scouts” - 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

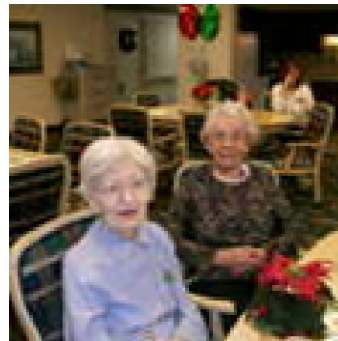


# Christmas Activities

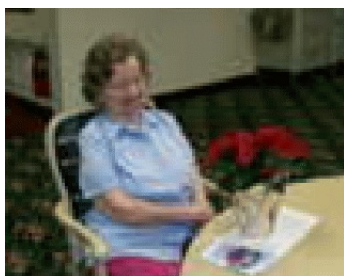


Junior Choir singing at the nursing home.

Our accompanists:  
Dalton Cook on the keyboard,  
Katrina Chronister on the flute.



The homeschool group brought Christmas cheer to some of our church shut-ins by visiting them with poinsettias and singing Christmas carols.



# Children's Christmas Program and Activities



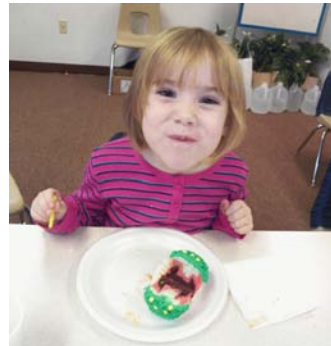
Each Sunday School department prepared their own part of the program from things they have been learning in class. All the departments together sang "God Rest You Merry Gentlemen".

The Junior Class shared some of the Old Testament characters they had learned about, and acted out the story of David and Goliath.



The Primaries, with their various headdresses, reminded us that Jesus loves all the children of the world.

The Preschool Class told about Mary and Joseph going to Bethlehem. For their party during practice they had a hot dog made into a donkey, with the roll and shredded cheese made into a manger.



For dessert they had a cupcake that when cut open had layers with the colors of the Wordless Book. They also did a creation project with many of the days of creation represented: stones, water, a plant, and even a betta fish.

