



Cashion United Methodist Church Newsletter

Pastor Felecia Hensley
211 Buena Vista

December 2009

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Cashion, OK 73016

A Word from Felecia...

It's that time again--the time of waiting. We wait for all kinds of things this time of year--Santa, the first snow, for everyone to get their Christmas lights up, for those favorite holiday goodies to appear on the table, for the presents to appear under the tree, for the parties to begin. Yes, we wait for lots of things. But all those things we wait for are just a pale imitation of

what we are really waiting for, the full coming of God's kingdom on the earth. God broke into our world as a baby, and lived among us, chose to be as we are so that we can recognize a God who knows what it's like to be human. What a gift! God came to us in Jesus, and will come again. In the meantime, we wait and hope and work with

God to bring more of God's kingdom to this time and this place. Another gift--the opportunity to work with God. And the third gift is still to come. Even so, come Lord Jesus, come. It is my prayer for all of you that you have a safe, joyous and blessed holiday season.

**Felecia, Pat,
Elizabeth & Alex**

Angel Tree – The History

Mary Kay was a safecracker, a bank robber, and one of America's Most Wanted. Arrested in June of 1972, she quickly collected 11 federal indictments and 35 charges against her. But her 180-year sentence turned into a six-year sentence – during which time she asked God to change her hardened heart.

On the three Christmases that she spent in prison for Women in Alabama, local church groups brought the inmates gifts of toothpaste and soap.

Intrigued, Mary Kay watched as her fellow prisoners wrapped up the small gifts and gave them to their children at the Christmas visit. "Most children wouldn't think much of such small gifts, but in prison there was such joy on their faces!" says Mary Kay. "It didn't really matter to them what they got; it was from Mama."

After being paroled, Mary Kay accepted Prison Fellowship's challenge to become their first Alabama State Director in 1982. Once of her

assignments was to create a Christmas project for prisoners. At one of her speaking engagements, a conversation with an ex-prisoner's daughter solidified the project's focus. "What about the inmate's kids"? The woman asked. "They are the real victims." Mary Kay and a crew of volunteers began creating a program to provide real gifts for prisoners children. Someone suggested writing the children's names on paper ornaments shaped like angels – creating an "Angel Tree!"



The True Meaning of Christmas

Just a week before Christmas I had a visitor. This is how it happened. I just finished the household chores for the night and was preparing to go to bed, when I heard a noise in the front room and to my surprise, Santa himself stepped out next to the fireplace. "What are you doing?" I started to ask. The words choked up in my throat and I saw he had tears in his eyes. His

usual jolly manner was gone. Gone was the eager, boisterous soul we all know. He then answered me with a simple statement..."Teach The Children!" I was puzzled. What did he mean? He anticipated my question and with one quick movement brought forth a miniature toy bag from behind the tree. As I stood bewildered, Santa said, "Teach the Children!

Teach them the old meaning of Christmas. The meaning that now-a-days Christmas has forgotten. "Santa then reached in his bag and pulled out a **FIR TREE** and placed it before the mantle. "Teach the children that the pure green color of the stately fir tree remains green all year round, depicting the everlasting hope of mankind, all the needles

point heavenward, making it a symbol of man's thoughts turning toward heaven."

He again reached into his bag and pulled out a brilliant **STAR**. "Teach the children that the star was the heavenly sign of promises long ago. God promised a Savior for the world, and the star was the sign of fulfillment of His promise."

He then reached into his bag and pulled out a **CANDLE**. "Teach the children that the candle symbolizes that Christ is the Light of the world, and when we see this great light we are reminded of He who displaces the darkness."

Once again he reached into his bag and removed a **WREATH** and placed in on the tree. "Teach the children that the wreath

symbolizes the real nature of love. Real love never ceases. Love is one continuous round of affection."

He then pulled from his bag an **ORNAMENT** of himself. "Teach the children that I, Santa Claus symbolize the generosity and good will we feel during the month of December."



"The Candle symbolizes that Christ is the Light of the World..."

True Meaning of Christmas continued

He then brought out a **HOLLY LEAF**.

"Teach the children that the holly plant represents immortality. It represents the crown of thorns worn by our

Savior. The red holly berries represent the blood shed by him. Next he pulled from his bag a **GIFT** and said, "Teach the Children that God so loved the world that

he gave his begotten son." Thanks are to God for his unspeakable gift. Santa then reached in his bag and pulled out a **CANDY CANE** and hung it on the tree." Teach the

True Meaning of Christmas continued

Children that the candy cane represents the shepherds' crook. The crook on the staff helps to bring back strayed sheep to the flock. The candy cane is a symbol that we are our brother's keeper." He reached in again and pulled out an **ANGEL**. "Teach the children that it was the angels that heralded in the glorious news of the

Savior's birth. The angels sang Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace and good will toward men." Suddenly I heard a soft twinkling sound, and from his bag he pulled out a **BELL**, "Teach the children that as the lost sheep are found by the sound of the bell, it should bring mankind to the fold. The bell symbolizes guidance and return.

Santa looked back and was pleased. He looked back at me and I saw that the twinkle was back in his eyes. He said, "**Remember, teach the children the true meaning of Christmas and do not put me in the center, for I am but a humble servant of the One that is, and I bow down to worship him, our LORD, our GOD.**"

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



Events for December

December 5th
Caroling & Chili 6:30

Loaves & Fishes

December 2nd
4-6 pm

December 12th
Christmas Dinner &
Dirty Santa 6:00

December 16th
4-6 pm

December 20th
Christmas Cantata
10:30 a.m.

December 30th
4-6 pm

December 24th
Christmas Eve
Candle light Service
11:00 p.m.

Jan. 13th & 27th

Christmas Dinner **12-12-09**

The women will provide the meat, potatoes, dressing, gravy & rolls. Bring a side dish or dessert to go along with it.

PS- Don't forget your Dirty Santa gift.

**It is more blessed
To give than to receive
Acts 20:35**

Donations Needed

Children's Ministry

Needs items to fill 36 Treat bags for the children. For example chips, candy canes, candy bars, suckers, apples, Little Debbie's Cookies, popcorn, crackers, etc.
(Need by Dec. 17th)

Circle One

Needs items for shut in sacks. Approximately 25 needed items as listed in the children bags. In addition, hand lotions, small packages of Kleenex, etc.
(need by Dec.17th)

Youth

Is in need of donations for paint, furniture, carpet etc. to fix our new enlarged room. We have outgrown our small room and have now removed a wall to make more space. Thanks soooo much!

Angel Tree

Kenna Jones is the Coordinator of the Angel Tree project. She is very excited about this wonderful ministry that our church participates in and pray you will continue to support it by taking a name

from the angel tree and purchasing a gift for that child. If you would like to donate money instead, Kenna is a great bargain shopper and will be glad to shop for you. Next year she would like to

have the names out to you all by Black Friday in order to take advantage of the great bargains. May God Bless each one of you for you have blessed a child.

Thank You

Special thanks to Chris, Kim and Evan Bird for their hard work on the flower bed. It is beautiful.

Thank you to all that donated money to purchase the plants, flowers and supplies for the flower bed.

Special thanks to Pat Hensley, Eric Miller for the removal of the scrubs, fresh dirt and

hard labor.

We would like to thank the youth ,Jennifer & Liz for their help with the clean up and hauling off to dumpster.

Special thanks for the long hours Eric Miller, Dave Petty and Terry Johnson put in tearing down the wall in the Annex .

Thanks to Kim Ross for

filling in on dates for the piano. What a blessing it is to hear her play.

Thanks to Rusty Nail for his 2 year term as chair of the Administrative Council.

Special thanks to Jennifer Hickman with her help with the youth.

Thank you Bill & Rowena Fields for your service.

School Calendar

Congratulations to the Cashion Football team for a great season. Thanks to the coaches for the long hours they put in. It has paid off. Cashion made it to the quarter finals of the Class A State Playoffs. Cashion lost by 5 with the score of 47-52.

Basketball Schedule

Dec. 4 @ Crescent

Dec. 8 @home
Okarche

Dec. 10-12
(Enid Tournament)

Dec. 14 @ Okeene

Dec 18 @ Hennessey

School Events

December 10th
Elem. Music
K-8 Program
6:30

December 17th
3rd grade sing
At Thursday Senior
Day- Methodist

December 18th
Ballroom Dance
8:30 am

Christmas Break
December 21-Jan 4



Board of Trustees – Eric Miller

There have been quite a few changes recently to the church facilities and grounds. You may have noticed all of the hedges have been removed from the flowerbeds at the church and annex. Special thanks to Pat Hensley for his help. Mulch now covers the ground where the hedges once stood on the west side of the church

as well. Changes have also been made at the annex. With the growing size of our youth group, a wall separating two of the bedrooms in the annex has been removed so the youth will have a larger space for their meetings and fellowship. Thanks to David Petty for his time and expertise in the wall removal and

sheetrock work. Additional upgrades for the Annex are in the works with fresh paint and arrangements for the Loaves and Fishes as well as Sunday School departments. If you have any new thoughts or ideas for inside or outside, be sure to let one of the Trustee members



Cashion United Methodist Church

211 Buena Vista
Cashion, OK 73016

SUNDAY SCHOOL
9:30

WORSHIP
10:30

E-MAIL
fhensley@cox.net

We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.cashionumc.org

Want to Make Someone's Day? Send them a Christmas Card!

Legacy
Jack & Mary Ellen
Simmons
11320 N. Council Rd.
Okla. City, OK 73162
Jack apt# 306
Mary Ellen apt# 316

Illene Tharp
Rt. 3, Box 69
Kingfisher, OK 73750

Cimmaron Nursing Ctr.
Francis Lois Kerner
905 Beall Road
Kingfisher, OK 73750

Willowcreek Nursing
Pam McGee-Rm 207
1310 E Oklahoma
Guthrie, OK 73044

Pat Waswo
Rt. 1 Box 153
Cashion, OK 73016

Year End Contributions

. It's the end of the year, and time to think about final donations and taxes. As you may have noticed from the bulletin every Sunday, our weekly donations have been running a little under what we need to average to make our budget. In these hard times, that's

understandable. But at the same time, we continue to add new ministries and outreaches every year. Even though you have all been generous in supporting specific programs--VBS, Camp Scholarship, Thursdays Out, and Loaves and Fishes to name a few--all of these are also

supported by the general church fund which pays for utilities, upkeep, basic supplies and all the other things that keep the church running. So, when you're thinking of Christmas gifts or planning ahead for next year's taxes, please remember your church and do what you can.

Youth – Alex Hensley, Youth Director

Plans are in the work for a Christmas party for Dec. 20th. We will then break until the New Year. We have started an after

school hang out time every Thursday and Friday from 3:30-5:30 in the Annex. We meet regularly on Sunday nights 5-7.

We are very excited about fixing our new room up and hoping to grow our youth. Thanks for all your support.

Loaves & Fishes:

We are so happy about the opening of our new food pantry on October 1st. In two short months we have obtained a Petree Grant, opened our doors on regular basis, applied to join the Regional Food Bank and gone from feeding 1 family in October to 10 families (containing 41 people) the first week of December. The Petree Grant will be used to purchase freezers, refrigerators, cabinets, work tables, lock and initial food supplies. Loaves and Fishes is open every other Wednesday from 4-6 pm. December dates are Dec. 2nd, 16th & the 30th, and January 13th, and the 27th. Directors are Ginny Miller and Becky Brown.

Thursday Senior Fun Day::

Each Thursday 12:00-4:00 we meet at the church for lunch, games and fellowship. We have been averaging around 10-19 people. Thanks to all the Ladies who take turns providing the main dish and everyone else who brings the sides. Invite anyone else you know to join us.

Newsletter will be published quarterly. Anything you would like to add please see Jay Nail.