

The Air Hill Breezes



2019

Air Hill BIC Church
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Office Hours Mon., 8 am - 1 pm
Wed. - Fri. 8am - 1 pm

“Bah, humbug.” Some might call me a Scrooge, but I am not really like Ebenezer. I just choose to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ a little different than most.

I don't have a Christmas tree.

I don't have lights all over the house.

I don't have blow up figures all over the yard.

I don't spend hundreds or thousands of dollars for gifts, at least not in the conventional way. By no means have I ever gone in debt for Christmas.

I do look forward to the first and second coming of Jesus Christ through our family devotional with our advent wreath for the Advent season.

We do have a little décor in our house, highlighted by Nancy's hand carved wooden creche from England.

We do have a small gift exchange among the four of us.

We do connect usually with either Nancy's side or my side of the family for a meal; on Christmas morning we usually have a breakfast for the four of us.

Many years ago, when my first son was born, I began asking, “How should a follower of Jesus celebrate Christmas and teach their children about Christmas?” And since it was my job to train my sons in the ways of Jesus, I began wrestling with this issue. The commercialism of Christmas battles against celebrating Jesus; commercialism almost always counters following Christ, not just at Christmas. Many Christmas traditions are based on winter solstice celebrations and have nothing to do with honoring the incarnation.



At the heart of my thinking, if I can remember those earlier years rightly, are these two thoughts:

We have a limited amount of time, so how are we going to use this time together?

We have a limited mind; we can only fill our minds with a certain number of things, so on what things am I going to encourage my sons to ponder?

Thus, I wanted to teach and train my sons as much as possible about the birth of Jesus and what his entrance into this world means. I wanted them to know Christmas was about Jesus and fill their minds with this truth. As they grew, they would tell me that Jesus is at the heart of Christmas. But right under the surface, they were also wondering what they would get. Yes, there was a battle for their minds. Yes, there will always be a battle, but now I no longer have the same responsibility for them as a parent.

I have observed a benefit from not joining the Christmas rush. Peace. Joy. I did have challenges to that peace, such as working long hours delivering poinsettias to churches for Christmas. Yet, it was not a Christmas rush. It was where I was supposed to be, and where Jesus wanted me to be. Though the hours may have been full, and though I had to deal with a stressed-out boss, there was an underlying sense of peace. After all, where Christ is, there is peace.

In short, don't imitate others and get frazzled and rushed. Instead, go against the crowd and fill yourself with Jesus. With him there is joy and peace.

Peace
Love
Joy

Pastor John

FROM KARINA THRUSH SERVING IN JAPAN

Hello from Japan! I am excited to come back to the states for the holidays this year and have the opportunity to catch up with you again!

I want to invite you all to a Fundraiser Dinner here at Air Hill Church on Friday evening, January 3rd starting at 6:30 pm. I am looking forward to cooking for you!

If you plan to come, please sign up on the bulletin board by December 29th. Thank you!

You are invited to a
Fundraiser Dinner!

When: January 3rd
Time: 6:30 pm
Where: Air Hill Church Gym

I am excited to cook for you and share a little more about the ministry in Japan!
Karina Thrush



From Jason & Rebekah Oberholser

Dear friends,

It's been wonderful to connect with some of you as we travel throughout the East Coast. We will continue to be available to connect with people through November, December, and January; contact us if you wish to see us.

Last month our family celebrated 11 years of ministry among the Navajo People in the Four Corners. Because of our work, countless individuals have been ministered to through addiction recovery, meeting physical needs, and church planting.

One story of a changed life stands out. TJ is a Navajo man in his 50's who had struggled with alcohol but has now found a new life in Jesus. TJ was once bitter toward us. During that time Jason continued to keep the relationship door open on his end and prayed for TJ. One day TJ called Jason to inform us that he no longer held a grudge against us. He said, "My Navajo culture doesn't encourage forgiveness, but I'm choosing to forgive because that is what God wants me to do." We now have a very good friendship with TJ because he learned it is more important to obey Jesus than to follow his culture. Through our church planting efforts, our goal is to see life transformation like TJ's taking place throughout the Navajo Nation within the context of a local church body.

Our family doesn't do this alone. The work is a joint effort between us and our partners. When you give a financial gift, pray for us, send us an encouraging note, share our stories with others, and/or host us in your home; you partner with us.

When we return to the field in early 2020, we plan to focus more intently on developing a network of multiplying church plants through small group ministry. As we prepare to return to New Mexico in early 2020, we are looking for partnerships. We need partners of the past to renew their commitment for partnership. We also need new partners to join us. Would you please partner with us in these ways?

* Pray—Prayer warriors who regularly lift us up in prayer.

*Give—Financial givers who commit to one time and/or ongoing contributions. Our fundraising target for the upcoming term with BIC U.S. World Missions is over \$200,000. Before we begin our next term in New Mexico, we are required to fundraise \$71,000 in cash preferenced for our ongoing church planting ministry with World Missions.

*Promote—Advocates for our ministry who are willing to share our stories with others who will join our team.

Over the next several months, we are traveling and available to meet face to face or via the phone/internet with those interested in hearing more about our work. If this is you, please contact us!

Combined Sunday School with Breakfast



Meet for Breakfast

Join us on Sunday, December 22nd for a Fellowship Breakfast beginning at 9 am. as we celebrate the birthday of our Lord Jesus Christ. Everyone is invited

Don't forget our Leadership/
Budget council scheduled for
Sunday December 8th
immediately after worship service.
Everyone is invited!



*Watch for details on time
to meet*



December Spiritual Exercise:

Fill yourself with meaning of Christmas by memorizing and meditating on John 1:1-5,14.

Do you want bonus points? Memorize John 1:1-14.

Do you want extra bonus points? Memorize John 1:1-18.

Just as God the Father gave us the gift of Jesus in our spiritual poverty, and just as the Magi gave gifts to Jesus and his impoverished family, so also give a gift to those in financial need this Christmas.



*At 7 p.m to celebrate
the new born KING*



CHURCH BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

- Approved the Personnel Roster to be presented to Council
- Approved the Budget to be presented to Council
- Property Managers have several large projects and will present them to the congregation for help in prioritizing the projects.

- ADVENT:** 1. a coming into place, view, or being; arrival:the advent of the holiday season.
2. the coming of Christ into the world.
3. the period beginning four Sundays before Christmas, observed in commemoration of the coming of Christ into the world.
4. The Second Coming of Christ

The Advent Virus

Anonymous via email

WARNING.....WARNING: ADVENT VIRUS

Be on the alert for symptoms of inner **Hope, Peace, Joy and Love**. The hearts of a great many have already been exposed to this virus and it is possible that people everywhere could come down with it in epidemic proportions. This could pose a serious threat to what has, up to now, been a fairly stable condition of conflict in the world.

Some signs and symptoms of **The Advent Virus**:

- A tendency to think and act spontaneously rather than on fears based on past experiences.
- An unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment.
- A loss of interest in judging other people.
- A loss of interest in interpreting the actions of others.
- A loss of interest in conflict.
- A loss of the ability to worry. (This is a very serious symptom.)
- Frequent, overwhelming episodes of appreciation.
- Contented feelings of connectedness with others and nature.
- Frequent attacks of smiling.
- An increasing tendency to let things happen rather than make them happen.
- An increased susceptibility to the love extended by others as well as the uncontrollable urge to extend it.

Please send this warning out to all your friends. This virus can and has affected many systems. Some systems have been completely cleaned out because of it.

Life Is an Advent Season

CONNECTIONS, 11-28-93

"Life is a constant Advent season: we are continually waiting to become, to discover, to complete, to fulfill. Hope, struggle, fear, expectation and fulfillment are all part of our Advent experience.

"The world is not as just, not as loving, not as whole as we know it can and should be. But the coming of Christ and his presence among us—as one of us—give us reason to live in hope: that light will shatter the darkness, that we can be liberated from our fears and prejudices, that we are never alone or abandoned.

"May this Advent season be a time for bringing hope, transformation and fulfillment into the Advent of our lives."





What are the 12 days of Christmas?

The 12 days of Christmas is the period that in Christian theology marks the span between the birth of Christ and the coming of the Magi, the three wise men. It begins on December 25 (Christmas) and runs through January 6 (the Epiphany, sometimes also called Three Kings' Day). The four weeks preceding Christmas are collectively known as Advent, which begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on December 24.

2 Turtle Doves = The Old and New Testaments

3 French Hens = Faith, Hope and Charity, the Theological Virtues

4 Calling Birds = the Four Gospels and/or the Four Evangelists

5 Golden Rings = The first Five Books of the Old Testament, the "Pentateuch," which gives the history of man's fall from grace.

6 Geese A-laying = the six days of creation

7 Swans A-swimming = the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven sacraments

8 Maids A-milking = the eight beatitudes

9 Ladies Dancing = the nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit

10 Lords A-leaping = the ten commandments

11 Pipers Piping = the eleven faithful apostles

12 Drummers Drumming = the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed

The partridge in the pear tree, naturally, represents Jesus Christ.

(Taken from the internet...true?...not true?)



December 2019

AIR HILL STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

"To grow a healthy, loving, Christ centered church family that has a passion for reaching the community and the world for Christ"

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p>1 8 am Prayer 9 am S.S. 10 am Worship 6 pm Ladies Bible Study</p>	<p>2 6 pm Volleyball</p>	<p>3 6:30 pm Prop. Mgt. Meeting 6:30 pm Men's Open Gym</p>	<p>4 6 pm Meal 6:30 pm Youth/WOW 6:45 pm Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 2:15 pm Good News Club</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 8 am Prayer 9 am S.S. 10 am Worship 11:30 Budget/Leadership Council</p>	<p>9 8:30 am Ladies Sewing 6 pm Volleyball 7 pm Church Board</p>	<p>10 8:30 am Men's Breakfast</p>	<p>11 6 pm Meal 6:30 pm Youth/WOW 6:45 pm Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 2:15 pm Good News Club</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 8 am Prayer 9 am S.S. 10 am Worship 6 pm Ladies Bible Study</p>	<p>16 6 pm Volleyball</p>	<p>17 6:30 pm Men's Open Gym</p>	<p>18 6 pm Meal 6:30 pm Youth/WOW 6:45 pm Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 4:30-8:30 Gym in Use</p>
<p>22 8 am Prayer 9 am S.S. 10 am Worship 12-5 Gym in Use Christmas Caroling</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 Christmas Eve Service</p>	<p>25 </p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 8 am Prayer 9 am S.S. 10 am Worship 6:30 pm Praise/Prayer</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p></p>			