

Ministering God's Love



Cultivating Faith

THE KING'S VOICE

DECEMBER 2015

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Little Things in the Big Story

By Dorene Royal

House of Bread – that's what Bethlehem means. A place where bakers bake and lowly shepherds feed their flocks. Not a place where you would expect a King to be born. There were palaces of beauty and splendor in Jerusalem, only five miles away, there were universities, there were hotels for the wealthy. Yet when God sent His only Son to this world he did not come to Jerusalem. He came to Bethlehem. And not even to a hospital or hotel or wealthy home; he came to a manger in a place where the animals took shelter.

Have you noticed, that in creating the greatest story this world has ever known, God used a series of *little places, little tasks, little people and little incidents*?! I Corinthians 1:27, 28 says it clearly, "But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise." There is nothing in the account of Christ's birth that speaks of bigness.

Like Bethlehem and the manger, God uses little places. The Last Supper was held in a borrowed room. The five thousand were fed on a hillside. The Son of God was buried in a borrowed tomb. When God looks for greatness, He doesn't always go to the palaces of Egypt. He often goes to the bulrushes of the Nile River where there is a little basket floating that holds the deliverer. Do you help in Children's Chapel? One of our children may be a great preacher. He or she may be wiggling now and won't listen, but who knows – God is using your little classroom to lay the foundation for something great! God uses little places.



God uses little people. Who did the angels sing to? Was it the wealthy and important and educated men of Palestine? Their ears did not hear the "Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace, good will toward men." The greatest news that the world has ever heard was heard by simple shepherds.

One of the elite of the day was not chosen to carry the babe in her womb. It was not a princess in the royal line, or a fashionable or learned lady of Nazareth that was chosen to carry the Christ Child in the womb. He chose simple Mary, a poor girl of Nazareth, to do so. Who did God choose to be the father in the home in which the Christ Child would be reared? It was a little person, a humble carpenter.

One of the most encouraging things of the Bible is that God uses little people to do big tasks. Who killed Goliath? It was little David from the back side of the desert. Who defeated the Midianites, using 300 men? It was little Gideon, who was called while hiding behind a winepress threshing wheat. Who sent Naaman to Elisha to be healed of his leprosy? It was a little maid said, "Go to Elisha, he can help you." Who gave food to feed the five thousand? It was a little boy with a lunch basket of five loaves and two



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fishes; he gave it to God.

So it was in the Christmas story: Mary, Simeon, Anna, the shepherds, Zacharias. Little people.

God uses **little things**. He used a manger and swaddling clothes. When God chooses to do something, He uses little things. What did He use to feed the five thousand? Five loaves and two fishes. What did He give to Shamgar when he defeated the Philistines and killed six hundred of them? A spur to guide livestock (ox goad). What did God use to part the Red Sea? He used a shepherd's rod. When God chose to call Moses he used a burning bush. What did God use to restore sight? He used some mud. You don't need much to be used of God. Yield what you have and watch what He can do with it!

The Christmas story is built around little people who were in little places who did little tasks with little things – but they did them with diligence and they did them with all of their heart. Little talents? You live in a little apartment? A little bit of furniture? An old car? Shabby clothes? Not much education? Not much talent? Not much success so far? (Joseph wasn't exactly the biggest contractor in Nazareth!) Do you have a little talent? Let God have it and be diligent with it. Do you have little things? Let God have them. Are you a little person? Let God have YOU. Are you in a little place? Then believe God can use you there. He can and He will. *(Giving credit: this article was written from the theme of the following poem written by Dr. Jack Hyles.)*

“Little Things”

by Dr. Jack Hyles

A little widow sits and sews, her eyes are growing dim.
“My heavenly Father surely knows I can't do much for Him.”

Mine eyes behold the setting sun; there's not much I can do.
My race on earth is nearly run; my talents are so few.

Oh, widow, dear, do not despair, lift up your voice and sing;
What's placed into His watchful care is not a little thing.

A little rod in Moses' hand did part the mighty sea.
'Twas used of God to plague the land, and set His people free.

The little basket in the rushes sat nestled all alone,
To man it was a baby bed; to God it was a throne.

A little maid on foreign sod, her name we do not know,
Sent Naaman to the Man of God, who washed him white as snow.



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A little widow paused and blushed, and gave her offering;
 When suddenly all Heaven flushed as hosts began to sing.
 Her two small mites were greater than the gifts that rich men hurled;
 When her gift struck the offering pan, 'twas heard around the world

A little lad held in his hand a lunch of fish and bread;
 He gave it all to Jesus and five thousand folks were fed.

A little manger filled with hay became a royal bed;
 A little straw became that day a pillow for His head.

And in the sky a little star was summoned to the place,
 To beckon all from near and far to come and see His face.

A little coin, a little pearl, a little upper room,
 A little boy, a little girl, a little virgin's womb,

A little faith, a little rod, a little child who leads,
 Can all be used by our great God to do His mighty deeds.

So little saint do what you can, and live beneath His wings;
 For in the palm of His dear hand there are no little things!



Receiving Communion

People generally come forward and stand or kneel at the altar to receive communion. The official policy of the Episcopal Church is that all baptized people may receive communion.

If you don't want to receive communion, that is totally fine. You can remain in your seat, or you can also come forward and cross your arms over your chest. The priest will offer you a blessing instead of communion.



If you do want to receive, hold out your hands and the priest will put a piece of bread in your hand. Then another liturgical minister will come with the cup of wine (and it is wine!). There are few choices here. You can eat the bread when it is put in your hand and then take a sip of wine from the cup. It is okay and actually helpful for you to touch the cup and help guide it to your mouth. If you don't want to drink from the cup you can also leave the bread in your hand and the person with the cup will dip the bread in the wine and then place it in your mouth. It is also totally fine to receive only the bread or only the wine; either is considered a full receiving of communion. There are many reasons people might want to receive only one, so don't feel self-conscious about that. Once you have received, simply return to your seat.



Stations of the Crèche

In the tradition of Stations of the Cross, these Stations of the Crèche' take us on a journey to the manger and the mission that lies beyond it. They seek to remind us how hope is born right here, right now, because of the incarnation of Jesus Christ. They are reflections on the infancy narratives of Luke and Matthew, filled with images and insights that engage and enlighten.

Please join us and bring your friends and neighbors for this very special journey. December 6th @ 3:00p.m. and 5:00p.m.



In this powerful DVD small group study, Pastor Rick Warren explains how God designed Christmas to meet your three deepest needs and how understanding and receiving God's three Christmas gifts for you will transform your life forever. He tells the most wonderful story of all - the story of God come to earth in the form of a human infant. Warren goes back to that day long ago when the baby Jesus was born in the manger.

... At the very first Christmas – the birth of Jesus – an angel announced three things. In those three statements of the angel, we find the three purposes of Christmas. The three sessions in The Purpose of Christmas look at each of those purposes: Christmas Is a Time for Celebration, Christmas Is a Time for Salvation & Christmas Is a Time for Reconciliation.

This Study reminds us what Christmas is really about and how to take Christ off the back burner and put him first in your life. Christmas is a celebration of the birth of Jesus, not parties, shopping, and all the things we put before celebrating Christ's birthday. There are several lessons to be learned by someone seeking Christ, a new Christian, and for more mature Christians. It reminds us of lessons we may have forgotten.

***** Wednesday, December 2nd, 9th and 16th. Soup, salad, sandwich fellowship @ 6:00 p.m. DVD study to follow at 7:00 p.m. followed by an ADVENT service**

Deacon's Corner

A note from Ed Tatlian, Deacon

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Jer 29:11

What does hope look like? Hope is knowing there is someone who loves and cares for you. Why? Because you are precious: for God loves you and cares for you.

So how can we help? We can become a Guardian ad Litem. The Guardians come from all walks of life. They become a friend and mentor, but especially that special someone who cares. Guardians visit the children they are assigned to as well as gather information in order to make fact based recommendations to the court, about what we believe is in the "best interest" of the children.

This is a call from God to serve those who need us and to watch over those who cannot help themselves. Do you realize that there are approximately 1,600 children in our area that have been removed from their homes? God is calling you! Come help, serve and be guided by our Lord. In serving Him, we show that we are thankful for what He gives us and for us to share that Love.

I am inviting anybody who would like to help the children who are separated from their parents or have to live in places that are not appropriate or are not being taken care of in the right way. If you would like more information about the Guardian ad Litem program, please speak to me. Caring for these children, and sharing God's love with them can be a life changer for them.

OK, so maybe you do not want to be a Guardian ad Litem yet... it's o.k., there is another way you can help!! Very similar to the Angel Tree program, there will be a list of children in need of Christmas presents placed on the Advent tree in the Narthex. Please select a child's name, shop for them, then bring the gifts back to the church, and the gifts will be given to the children for the holidays. Blessings to all, in Jesus name, Amen

Here is information if you would like to get involved with this program. It is really a very loving and caring service for those who need help. Their lives have just started, and they need to see that there are people out there with God's love and are willing to help as much as possible.

Guardian Ad Litem - 205 East Main street, Bartow FL 33831; the contact person is [Diane Schmelz](mailto:Diane.Schmelz@BartowFL.org) (863-534-2547) or go online to www.BecomeAGuardian.com. Training sessions are held 9 to 1 or 5 to 9 and there are 3 sessions required. If you have any questions please speak to me, I would be more than happy to talk with you.

Blessings,

Deacon Ed



LADIES NIGHT IN

PLEASE COME AND JOIN IN THE FUN!!

Bring your family, friends and neighbors

NO church talk, just good food, fellowship and lots of fun.

On December 7th we will meet and stay at the church at 6:30 p.m.

Bring you favorite savory or sweet treat,

(one you don't make at home, because you would eat it all by yourself)

There will be a short fun Advent program to prepare our hearts for the season.

Don't miss out. Sign up today!

Saturday, December 19th



From 12:00p.m.—3:00p.m.



Christ the King would like to give you parents a BREAK!! Spend the time as you wish knowing your children are having fun at church with their friends. Don't forget, Drama practice is also this day from 10:00a.m.—12:00pm



FIFTH ANNUAL



HOT CARS – HOT BIKES AND HOT DOGS



SATURDAY JAN. 9, 2016 - 10 AM-2 PM

We are going to need lots and lots of help!!! This event that we host is HUGE!!

But it can't happen without everyone pitching in to help.

Starting now, we need a couple things... Prayer!! Prayer for great weather and a great turn out. AND prizes. Please ask around to the local businesses for donations we can give away as prizes. Popular items are gift cards or discount cards.

INCOME

October 4th	\$3389.50
October 11th	\$2510.00
October 18th	\$2185.90
October 25th	\$1543.00
TOTAL	\$11,327.98

Financials October 2015

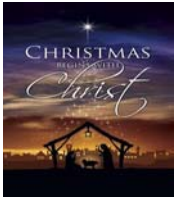
EXPENSES

TOTAL \$12,115.87

M I N I S T R Y S C H E D U L E

Ministry area	December 6	December 13	December 20	December 24	December 27
Celebrant	Mother Carolyn	Mother Carolyn	Mother Carolyn	Mother Carolyn	Mother Carolyn
Deacon	Bob Dinnerville	Bob Dinnerville	Bob Dinnerville	Bob Dinnerville	Bob Dinnerville
LEM2	Wade Griggs	Cathy Moore	Don Williams	David Biggs	Bob Springthorpe
Acolyte - Server	Mitchell Parrish	Elizabeth Hospedales	Liam Borden	Elvon Hospedales	Elizabeth Hospedales
Acolyte - Cross/bells	Sydney Sharrow	Clive Borden	Jacob Heist	Mitchell Parrish	Clive Borden
Acolyte-Collection	Grace Fernburg	Joey Beck	Alexander Parrish	Alexander Parrish	Nathaniel Heist
Acolyte -Gospel	John Beck	Grace Fernburg	John Beck	Grace Fernburg	
Old Testament	Mike Green	Wade Griggs	Marilyn Springthorpe	Jan Dinnerville	Don Williams
New Testament	Veda Dwyer	Sharon Rogers	Bob Springthorpe	Martha Griggs	Susan O'Brien
Prayers of the people	Jan Dinnerville	Ed Tatlian	Wade Griggs	Bob Dinnerville	Ed Tatlian
Greeters./ushers	Betty & Claire	Jack & Wade	Terry & Cheryl	Debbie & Jack	Susan & Darren
Pre k (paid)	Colleen	Debbie	Colleen	Debbie	Colleen
Children's Chapel	Jessie Beck Bob Dinnerville	Pam & Andrea Dorene Royal	No Children's Chapel	No Children's Chapel	No Children's Chapel
Prayer Team	Wade & Lisa	Stacey & Jim	Ed & Joy	Cathy & Marilyn	Wade & Lisa
Altar Guild	Claire & Cathy	Diane & Carolyn	Diane & Carolyn	Christina & Jo Ann	Christina & Jo Ann
Vestry Counters	Mark & Martha	Mark & Martha	Mark & Martha	Mark & Martha	Mark & Martha

December 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
			Soup & salad or sandwiches 6pm The Purpose of Christmas 7PM Service to follow			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Christian Ed & Adult class 9am Holy Communion 10am Children's Chapel 10am Stations of the Creche' 3pm & 5pm	Ladies night in Here at CTK @ 6:30pm		Soup & salad or sandwiches 6pm The Purpose of Christmas 7PM Service to follow			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Christian Ed & Adult class 9am Holy Communion 10am Children's Chapel 10am Newcomers Brunch directly after the service			Soup & salad or sandwiches 6pm The Purpose of Christmas 7PM Service to follow	Vestry Meeting 6:30pm		Final Practice for the Christmas program 10am - 12pm Parent's Day out 12pm-3pm
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Christian Ed & Adult class 9am Holy Communion 10am Christmas Program			No Wed night service	Christmas eve services 5pm & 10pm		
27	28	29	30	31		
Christian Ed & Adult class 9am Holy Communion 10am Lessons & Carols			No Wed night service			