



Rosedale Connect

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All Saints Church
5501 Third Street
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www.aspgh.org

'Tis the Season

For many of us it's our favorite time of year - the holidays beginning with Thanksgiving and running through New Years. Christmas is the highlight for most of us, and it's right around the corner.

Many of us have Christmas traditions that have stood for years, maybe generations. I'm willing to bet, however, that most of us have lost something from the past. Maybe it's as simple as the kids growing up; maybe families have moved apart and being together is no longer possible. Change does happen even in the most traditional of seasons and usually that change will be something lost rather than something gained.

In this issue we're going to offer the opportunity to add to your season, to gain maybe new traditions; maybe reclaim something that has been lost in the past.

One of the great losses, at least in my opinion, is the loss of God in these holidays. Light Up Night downtown features the lighting of the "holiday tree". The "Peoples Gas Holiday Market" in downtown is meant to mimic the German Christkindlmarket, except without the "Christ". We all know Christmas is now a secular holiday primarily, so no offense is allowed.

Maybe one of the traditions some of us have lost is also one that we would like to return to - Christ Jesus as a real part of our holidays. We offer a couple of opportunities to return to this Christ during these holidays. Read about them inside.

Maybe this is the year to add to our traditions. Maybe we can build some Rosedale Christmas Tradition.

Blessings

David

LKBTF #1

(Little Known But Terribly Important Facts!)

Do you believe the Star of Bethlehem was real? Check out this little known but terribly important fact - Astronomers can reproduce the night sky exactly as it was thousands of years ago. "We found out something startling." said David Reneke, news editor of Australia's Sky and Space Magazine, "It looks like the 'Christmas star' really did exist". Dave assumed the 'Star of Bethlehem' was not just a localized event and could be observed by sky-watchers elsewhere in the world, not just by the Magi. Historical records and modern-day computer simulations indicate a rare series of planetary groupings, also known as conjunctions, during the years 3 BC and 2 BC (the dates within which it is believed Jesus was born). In fact, this was one of the most remarkable periods in terms of celestial events in the last 3,000 years!



"Oh Come All Yea Faithful"

...Oh come let us adore Him, oh come let us adore Him, oh come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Here's a neat idea - singing Christmas hymns, listening to the Christmas Story as originally given to us from God Himself, sharing fellowship, and a grand finale - singing one of the most beautiful songs ever written, Silent Night, by candle light.

Walking out into the cold night air afterwards and looking up onto the same stars that the shepherds looked at over 2000 years ago as the

heavens filled with the Glory of God. Listening to the silence.

A smile working its way from somewhere deep inside of us. A smile that says "there's something truly special tonight". There is something special on December 24th, and it's there for the taking if we will but seek. "For unto you is born this Day, in the City of David a Saviour who is Christ the Lord."

If you haven't been to your church for a while, there is no greater time than Christmas Eve to be there. And if you don't have a church but you'd

like to share something truly significant for Christmas please know you're welcome to share Christmas Eve with us, right here in Rosedale. Our service begins at 9:00 p.m. We'll be done a little after 10:00 p.m. A perfect way to begin a "new" Christmas tradition.

We also celebrate Christmas Day together at 9:00 a.m. We'd love to share this season with you.

Christmas Cookie Sale!

The aroma of cookies baking is wafting through the house as carols are getting you in the mood for Christmas. Does this bring you visions of sugarplum fairies? Or are you thinking of just another task during a busy season?

Put your worries aside and let us do your Holiday baking. A wide va-

riety of cookies will be available from lady locks and chocolate raspberry squares to pizzelles and Italian tadelles, as well as many others. All Saints and Rosedale United Methodist Churches are holding a Christmas Cookies Sale on Saturday, December 8 from 9 am to 1 p.m.. Come and purchase homemade cookies, meet old and

new friends, and support these two churches dedicated to reaching out to our Rosedale neighborhood.

This Cookie Sale is an outreach of All Saints and Rosedale United Methodist women's ministry. For information about the Cookie Sale or about women's ministry, contact Pat Serafini at serafinip@yahoo.com or 412-247-0617.

Here We Come A-Caroling

Merry Christmas! All Saints Church will be walking around the neighborhood singing Christmas carols on Saturday, Dec.15. Everyone is welcome to join us as we sing at various locations throughout the neighborhood. We will begin at 7:00 PM at the intersection of Stanley Dr. and Shirley St. Our second stop is on Maple Ave. between Shirley St. and 3rd St. The third stop is at the intersection of Maple Ave. and 3rd St. Our last stop will be in front of the Rosedale Methodist / All Saints Anglican church at 5501 3rd St. Even if you cannot sing with us, please join us at 8:00 PM at the church (our final stop) to enjoy refreshments and fellowship. If you have any questions regarding the caroling, please contact Todd Russell at 814-241-5221.



Pet Blessing

Thanks to all of you who attended the Pet Blessing October 6th at All Saints/Rosedale United Methodist Church. A variety of pets--from a rabbit and guinea pig to an assortment of dogs and even 2 pigs and a miniature horse--were blest by Pastor David Rucker of All Saints and Pastor Don Blinn, Jr. of Rosedale. Additional thanks go to the Penn Hills Police Department for their participation with their police dog and handler and to PetSmart of Monroeville for their donation of pet treats. Participants also provided donations to the Animal Rescue League and Wildlife Center on Verona Road.

Beat the
Christmas
rush!
Come this
Sunday
9:00 A.M.

LKBTIF #2

If you haven't seen the living nativity scene downtown in the courtyard of the US Steel Building, you need to do so. And here a little known fact - according to Wikipedia it is the only crèche in the U.S. to be authorized by the Vatican.

Book Review: *The Case for Christ* by Lee Strobel

The Case for Christ
by Lee Strobel.

Thinking about a book to review for Christmas I realized we have to think about just who this holiday is about: Jesus. Lee Strobel is an award winning journalist who was an atheist until his wife accepted Jesus as her Savior and became a Christian. Determined to prove her wrong about who Jesus says He is and bring her back to 'sanity', Lee Strobel started an intensive investigation. In the process of investigating Jesus and the Bible, he was shocked that he came to believe that

Jesus is who he says he is. This book lays out the evidence and you can evaluate the evidence for yourself. We should know why we celebrate Christmas worldwide and whether its all myth and stories or something really phenomenal and life changing.

There are DVDs on the Case for Christ and The Case for the Creator and a newer book called The Case for the Real Jesus. In this book Strobel addresses many of the questions posed by the media about Jesus and the bible. "Did Christianity suppress 'alternative gospels'? Did

the church distort the truth about Jesus by tampering with early biblical texts? Have fresh insights and explanations finally disproved the resurrection? Were the essential beliefs about Jesus stolen from earlier mythology?" If you have ever wondered about the facts behind these controversial questions, the answers are here. Decide for yourself the most important questions you will ever ask. "Is Jesus who he says he is? What does that mean for me?"

Copies of the book are available in our church library, please contact us if you would like to borrow one!

A look at our service in Honor of our Veterans and Active Military

"It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain -- that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom -- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

These are the final words Abraham Lincoln's speech at the dedication of the Gettysburg National Cemetery. It was a part of the homily to the members of Rosedale United Methodist Church and All Saints Church in a service to remember all veterans, living and deceased, and presently serving. The service was open to all citizens of Rosedale.

More than a dozen living veterans were in attendance and each was recognized for his or her service to our Country. A representative from

Wounded Warriors was in attendance as well providing information about this project. (See their website www.woundedwarriorproject.org)

The combined choirs did their usual great performance of the songs of each branch of our Armed Forces. This looks to become an annual event, even though the Sunday may not fall on November 11th again for a while.

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Upcoming Events

Christmas Cookie Sale
Saturday Dec. 8th 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Christmas Cantata with RUMC
Sunday, Dec. 9th 10:00 AM

Christmas Caroling - Meet at the church
Saturday, Dec. 15th 7:00-8:00 PM

All Saints Service of Lessons and Carols
Sunday, Dec. 16th 9:00 AM

All Saints Christmas Eve Service
Monday, Dec. 24th 9:00PM

All Saints Christmas Day service
Tuesday, Dec. 25th 9:00AM



Watch for details and a
chance to win tickets
in a future issue of
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