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ANDOVER NEWS

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Andover Clergymen Offer Thoughts On Christmas

ONCE UPON A TIME IT HAPPENED

Once upon a time it happened. The first Christmas! The God Who was above and beyond human experience entered the realm of humanity — not as a hero, not as a conqueror, but as a baby born of a woman. A truly blessed event — the event of eternity.

Sometimes we forget that Jesus' birth really happened, once upon a time. It happened just once and at a certain time — the fullness of time — the right time. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us full of grace and truth. The miracle was Emmanuel, God with us — a little child Who would grow up to be a king. They called His name Jesus for He would save His people from their sins.

John interprets the event of Jesus' birth. John speaks of Jesus as light for the darkness of the world. He was the true light, outshining the darkness. To the ancient peoples, light and darkness were symbols of good and evil. John says that Jesus is the true light entering the dark world, a darkness cannot overcome Him. Light also reveals and purifies. The true light enlightens every man.

Those who receive Him are given power to become, to change, to grow — power to become children of God. The birth which produces children of God is not the result of natural descent, nor of human choice. It is God. Jesus, the only begotten Son of God has made it possible for human beings to become children of God. The implication is unmistakable. Not all in the world, not even all of Jesus' own people and children of God. Only those who receive Jesus are given power to become God's sons. Jesus is also the One Who brings grace and truth into the world in contrast to the law. To YOU is born a Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Rev. Floyd C. Aldrich

"CHRISTMAS IS WELCOME"

With all its gifts and goodies, with all its holly and reindeer, Christmas is welcome. Actually these symbols have little to do with Christmas, though it should be noticed that wherever the Christ Child is banished or ignored even these beautiful symbols cease to exist.

Christmas compels us to think of others, particularly of our friends. We remember at this happy season those who have been thoughtful of us, and we choose to express our appreciation by cards, by Christmas dinners, by gifts, by long distance calls. All these involve time and money, but life is much poorer without them.

Some regard Santa Claus as an imposter of Christ. Devout people need not do so. And if the ungodly choose to ignore Jesus, perhaps it is better to allow them to have Santa than to take him away. Nobody is fooled by the myth (at least, not for long). This much is certain, it takes a person, another person, the Lord Jesus Christ who was born in Bethlehem, to really make Christmas.

Ornaments of trees and lights and flowers are not to be despised at Christmas. Our homes need relief from their everyday drabness, and expense in brightening our homes may be money well spent. But the Christian has more joy in Christmas than anyone else. He delights in the innocent pleasures of the season, but he also remembers what God did at that first Christmas when He stooped low enough to be born in our homes and in our hearts. CHRISTMAS 1970 becomes a new rainbow of promise, a promise of better days for men on earth. WITH ALL OUR HEARTS WE WELCOME CHRISTMAS!

Rev. Gerald A. Wolter

News That's Print To Fit

Well Folks, we are happy to report that all of the Christmas Trees on Main St., except one are decorated with lights — and it sure is pretty at night.

We hope to be able to drive around town on Christmas Eve and plan to observe all of the homes that are gayly decorated and will mention the ones that we think are outstanding in this column at a later date. So-o-o, be sure you have your lights on Christmas Eve so we won't miss any.

At this time we would like to take the opportunity to wish You a "Merry Christmas" and would like to leave this one thought with you: "To Count Your Blessings!" No matter how bad things look — remember — there are a lot of people in this world that are worse off than you are!

On the Snowmobile scene — we noticed three youths were stopped on Rochambeau Ave., by the State Police — and that their machines were pulled off the road and later hauled away in a pick-up truck.

We understand that the three youths were from Whitesville area and couldn't see any identification or licenses on their machines. In addition to this, they were driving down the wrong side of the Street when they were stopped.

So Parents — it might save you money and grief if you know where your children are on Snowmobiles — and also see to it that they abide by the rules and regulations 10-4?

"Art" Burdick Injured In Home Accident

Art Burdick, a lifelong resident of Alfred Station who is spending the winter in Florida, was injured in a unique accident at his Florida home and was hospitalized for several days.

Art was repairing a washing machine when an 8 inch spring that was compressed down to around 2 inches flew out and struck him in the eye causing severe damage.

He was rushed to a local hospital where a 3 hour emergency operation was performed but, according to reports, they were unable to save the sight of his eye.

He was released from the hospital on Saturday but we understand that he will have to return and have the eye removed as surgeons fear that it will impair the sight of his other eye.

In case his local friends would like to write and cheer him up his address is: Arthur Burdick Route 3, Box 420, Punta Gorda, Florida 33950.

"Hal" Sisson Makes Dean's List At MVCC

Harold F. Sisson, Rd 1, Andover, was named to the Dean's List for academic achievement during the Fall quarter at Mohawk Valley Community College according to a recent announcement made by Dr. W. Stewart Tosh MVCC President.

"Hal" is a graduate of Andover Central School and is in his second year at Mohawk Valley Community College.

New Arrivals

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Van Stine (Joyce All) are parents of a son, born Thursday, December 17, 1970 at the Jones Memorial Hospital in Wellsville.

In the Latin countries of Europe and America, nativity scenes are the focal point of holiday decorations.

PEACE ON EARTH, GOOD WILL TOWARD MAN

As we approach the time when we again celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, we are reminded of the song which the angels sang so long ago. Yet, as we see the "wars and rumors of wars," riots, unrest on college campuses, and revolt on every side, we do not understand the angels' song. These are days when everyone is crying "peace" by either the two finger sign or by rhetoric; yet we see very little of that peace in the world today. We wonder, after two thousand years, why the angels' song has not been fulfilled. Let us consider again their message and find an answer to our dilemma.

The angels' message was brought from heaven to a group of humble shepherds, who knew that there could be no peace between man and God because of man's sin. Therefore, this message also referred to God's deremptive work which would later be accomplished at Calvary. We find this truth in Colossians 3:13,14; "And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses: blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross." These words reveal to us that we can have peace with God as stated in Romans 5:1, "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

As the storm and the turmoil of the world rages, we, who know the Lord Jesus as our Saviour can have the peace of God within us. In John 14:27, Jesus says, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." At this Christmas time, may you have this peace with God and the peace of God dwelling in your heart.

Rev. Milton C. Hurne

CHRISTMAS OF THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 1970

We believe that God, Our Eternal Father, so loved the world that He gave His Own Son to save it. This act of love was fulfilled in Bethlehem. St. Luke tells us about it. "She brought forth a son, her first born Whom she wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn". This is so simple to say. It is like the Word of God, profound in its simplicity.

At creation God said "Let there be light". At Bethlehem, He is the Light of the World, Who sleeps in a manger.

He is come, Prince of Peace. "Through the Blood of His Cross that we might be called sons of God and truly be such."

At Bethlehem God honors man. He shares with him divine Life. His gifts are also divine Truth and divine Love.

Rev. John S. Shea

A FEW THOUGHTS ON BABIES AND THE BABE OF BETHLEHEM

In a few short weeks, I will be a father for the very first time. As my wife and I have approached this Christmas my mind has often thought about the similarities between the birth of our child and the birth of the Christ child so many years ago. An analogy may be made between the longing of any expectant parents and the expectant world into which Christ

(Please Turn to Page 2)