

FAIRFIELD GOOD NEWS

“KNOWING CHRIST AND MAKING HIM

December 2016

Events

- Dec. 3
Fall Clean Up
Decorate
Sanctuary
- Dec. 4
Communion
- Dec. 5
Consistory
- Dec. 11
Congregational
Meeting
- Dec. 12
Eveready
Christmas Party
- Dec. 18
Christmas Caroling
- Dec. 24 Christmas
Eve Service
- Dec. 25
Christmas
- Dec. 31
New Year's Eve

From the desk of Pastor Scott:

Christmas is a Season of Surprise. And our God is a surprising God, who delights in acting in unpredictable and sometimes unbelievable ways. To a group of lonely shepherds huddled on a Judean hillside he came with trumpets sounding and glory a'popping with an unexpected invitation to a birthday party for his son. But when the shell-shocked shepherds arrive they find that the Savior is wrapped in diapers. After the angels, it all seemed so ordinary...so innocent...so tame. Not at all what they expected.

Yet rather than being put off by this domestic scene they responded by glorifying and praising God for all that he had done. They were able to see through the circumstances. And for them the ordinary was forever transformed. They would never look at a night sky again without wonder. In the gentle breeze they would always hear an angel song. And in the face of every newborn child, they would see the face of God.

What will you see this Christmas? Will the bright lights and the majestic music sway you? Will you be content to bask in last night's glory huddled on the hillside trying to catch a glimpse of an angel? Will you strain your ears for an angelic chorus or a newborn's cry? Someone has written: ***“We have stayed too long on the hillside, busily trying to imitate the glory and the music of angels, instead of following the shepherds to Bethlehem. Not until we approach that humble manger will we see...”***

We often talk about the need to put Christ back into Christmas. But if we are willing to look past the twinkling lights, the glittering tinsel and the sweet carols, we will find that Christ never left. God continues to come to those who will look through this season and

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find the heart of Christmas. He still comes to those with shepherd's eyes and ears with unexpected invitations to celebrate. For it is not in the glory but in the ordinary that our Savior still chooses to come. The sights and the sounds are just the ribbons and bows...the outer wrapping. The true gift lies within.

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Scott



*Birthdays
of the Month
December*

10 – Gene Favatella
19 – Jeremy Boling

December 5th

Consistory Meeting

6:00 Elders

6:30 Deacons

7:00 Full Consistory

Merry Christmas



*Jesus is The
Reason for The Season*

December 3rd

Church Fall Clean Up Day 8:00 AM

Many hands make light work, come and give whatever time you can.



Decorate the Sanctuary Afternoon

Make the church beautiful for the Christmas holidays.



You may purchase a poinsettia in memory or honor of a family member, loved one or anyone you wish. These flowers will decorate our church during the Christmas season.

Orders will be taken for the poinsettias through Sunday, December 11th. Each poinsettia costs \$8.

Use the order form in Sunday's bulletin Dec. 4th & 11th to order your poinsettia(s).

December 2016

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1	2	3 Fall Clean-Up Day Decorate Sanctuary
4 Communion	5 Consistory Meeting	6 Prayer Meeting 7:00	7	8	9	10
11 Congregational Meeting	12 Eveready Christmas Party 6:30	13 Prayer Meeting canceled	14	15	16	17
18 Christmas Caroling	19	20 Prayer Meeting canceled	21 Winter Solstice	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:00
25 	26	27 Prayer Meeting canceled	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve

Sunday, Dec. 4th

**Communion
Service**



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**Sunday, Dec. 11th**

**Congregational Meeting**  
Following worship service

(Reports will be handed out the Sunday before for you to review prior to the meeting—make sure to get your copies)



**Monday, December 12th**

**6:30 PM**

**Eveready Christmas Party  
Butterly home**

**All women of the church are  
welcome.**

**Sunday, December 18th**

**Christmas Caroling**  
Following worship



Bring the joy of singing favorite Christmas carols to those who aren't able to get out during the holidays.

**Saturday, December 24th**

**7:00 PM**

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**



Ben Maring will lead our Christmas eve service.

**Sunday, December 25th**

**Christmas Day**  
**Hanukkah Begins**



**The Three Wise Women**

You do know what would have happened if it had been three wise WOMEN instead of men, don't you? They would have asked for directions, arrived on time, helped deliver the baby, cleaned the stable, made a casserole, and brought disposable diapers as gifts!



Our church is now fully lit in the evenings on the front and sides. The sign is lit as well.  
BEAUTIFUL!

Many thanks to our Building & Grounds Committee.



From Phil & Shirley DeCicco...

Dear Ones,  
Thank you for your faithful support through prayer and finances! I recently met with our Global Gates directors to talk about balancing family needs with ministry. One of the things I am pursuing, which our leadership supports, is finding a job at least part time to complement the ministry & provide additional income. This could also help in presenting a platform to the Turkish community. I am looking in the areas of education (Christian or secular colleges), and the computer field. I am also fluent in Spanish—which is a good asset in our region. If you have any leads or thoughts we'd love to get your input.

Recently we have been building relationships close to home with Turks. We have started to build relationships with Turkish grad students at Princeton, as our friend Ben speaks Turkish and is there. Some are married couples with kids. One idea is for Shirley to start a play group with the moms, who may not speak English as well as their spouses. Recently I attended both a Turkish mangal (BBQ), and then a weekly "Turkish table" for practicing Turkish on campus. At both events, I was able to talk with couples, and we hope to get together with them soon.

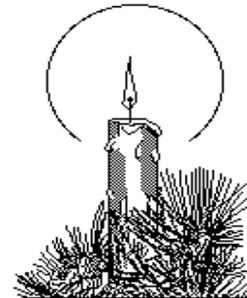
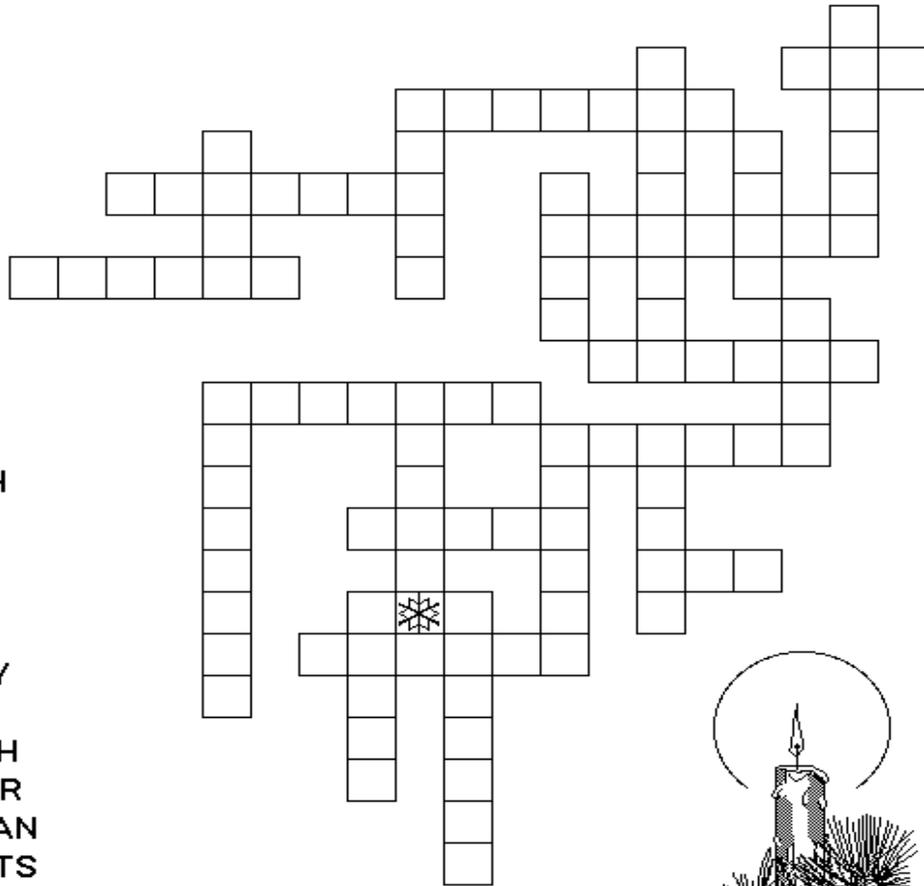
This fall the Int'l House of Prayer in Cranford is hosting the class "Encountering the World of Islam," in order to teach about Islam & mobilize the church to reach out to Muslims. Let us know if you know of a church or group interested in hosting this class.

love in Christ,  
The DeCiccoss

# Christmas Crossword

Make all the words fit into this crossword.  
Each word is only used once.

ELF  
TOY  
GIFT  
BELL  
TREE  
STAR  
SANTA  
COMET  
CUPID  
VIXEN  
CANDY  
FROSTY  
WREATH  
DASHER  
DONNER  
SLEIGH  
DANCER  
CHIMNEY  
BLITZEN  
RUDOLPH  
PRANCER  
SNOWMAN  
PRESENTS  
REINDEER



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A lady lost her handbag in the bustle of Christmas shopping. It was found by an honest little boy and returned to her. Looking in her purse, she commented, "Hmmm.... That's funny. When I lost my bag there was a \$20 bill in it. Now there are twenty \$1 bills."

The boy quickly replied, "That's right, lady. The last time I found a lady's purse, she didn't have any change for a reward."

*For  
Unto us a  
CHILD  
is born  
Unto us a Son  
is given, and the  
Government shall be  
Upon His shoulders,  
and His Name shall be called,  
Wonderful, Counselor,  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace!*  
Isaiah 9:6