

THE CANAAN CONNECTION

www.canaanbiblechapel.org

December 2011
Christmas Blessings!

Canaan Bible Chapel—30 Hemlock Rd—Lake Ariel, PA 18436 570-937-4848
Home of Canaan Christian Academy www.canaanchristianacademy.org

From the Study

by Pastor Dan Henwood

Christmas has always been a wondrous time for me. Images from my childhood – sleepless Christmas Eves; model trains winding their way around the tree; the smell of homemade cookies wafting through the house; etc. – all come flooding back each year. And I am reminded of how truly blessed I have been.

We can't talk about *how* He came without *why* He came.

However, as I have gotten older, my Christmas focus has shifted. In recent years, as I have meditated on the familiar Scripture passages, I have been overwhelmed at the significance of what really happened that first Christmas night: our God "*made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men,*" (Philippians 2:7). Our Creator – the God of the universe – became a man. And He did that so that He could die: He "*became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross,*" (Philippians 2:8). What amazing love is demonstrated in that act of humility!

As you and your families gather for those special celebrations – quiet or noisy – stop for just a moment and consider the wonder of the ultimate Christmas gift – "*But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son,*" (Galatians 4:4).

Pastor Crispell and I along with our families wish all a warm and blessed Christmas and pray that your times together with loved ones this year will far exceed any other Christmas. ☺

Gold is BIG right now!

It may be only December, but plans for Day Camp 2012 are well underway. This year's theme is Gold! So grab yer bandana and dust off yer boots...and get ready to mine for REAL gold! We're headed to the old west to discover The Rock of Ages. Pray as our directors plan and start things moving. Pray about how you might be a part of this exciting, valuable week each year.



Watch for details!

"Christmas at Canaan"

Canaan Christian Academy

Christmas Concert Grades K-12

Friday, December 9th, 7:00 p.m.

CCA Songs of Praise Dinner Concert

Saturday, December 10th, 6:00 p.m.

Reservations Required, Suggested Donation \$10

Canaan Bible Chapel

Community Christmas Cantata

"Lord of Glory" by Dan Forrest

Sunday, December 11th, 3:00 p.m.

All activities will be held in the CCA gymnasium
30 Hemlock Road, Lake Ariel

Call the office if you need more info!

Spotlight On . . . The Marshes

Surely you noticed that with each change of season, our sanctuary undergoes a transformation. Jerry and Joan Marsh are the principles behind this ministry..and it is no small task. From the doors at the entrance to the stained glass window, the sanctuary and overflow take on the colors and sights of each season. We caught up with the Marshes and their helpers, Marilyn Wargo and Carol Deighton, as they took down Autumn and made our auditorium ready for the Christmas activities. A flurry of activity began with bags and containers coming out of closets, down from the attic and from under stairs.

When we asked them how long they had been serving in this ministry, they almost couldn't remember! But they agreed it had to be since about 1990.

Years ago, Jerry and Joan grew all the flowers used in the decorating in their own garden. "That's too much work now" Joan admits.

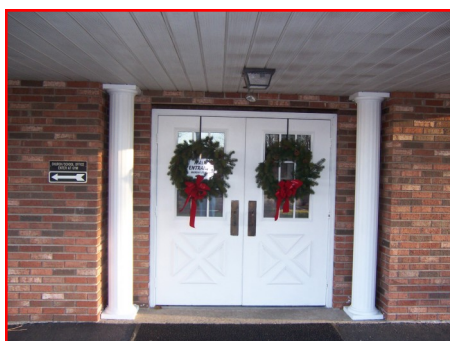
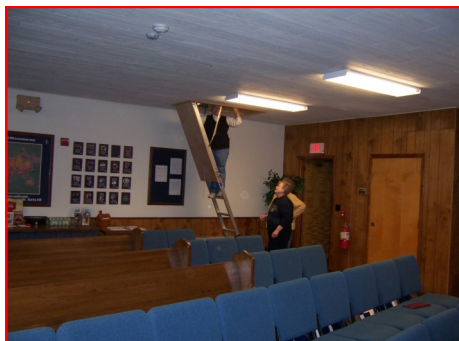
"We give God the glory for supplying the means to help us keep His sanctuary a pleasant place to worship," says Joan. "As the seasons change, we look forward to adjusting the decorations to catch the look and time of year. We try to keep it simple but attractive."

Several ladies from the church have helped over the years as they were able. Joan thanks Marilyn Farkas for her help in the past.

And many thanks from *all of us* for the outstanding job that makes each season of worship more meaningful and enjoyable.



Jerry and Joan Marsh



Missions Minded

The Gregorys, serving in Bangladesh, have sent us a letter that describes what Christmas is like for them as they celebrate far from their home and loved ones. Look for a special issue of The Canaan Connection this month devoted entirely to the Gregory's and Christmas in Bangladesh!