



Faith
Bible Fellowship Church
151 Donerville Road
Lancaster, PA 17603

Update

December, 2016

FAITH BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH NEWSLETTER

A Pastor's Perspective



For unto us a Child is born...

The Christmas season is fast approaching and always brings excitement. There are so many wonderful facets that surround this time of the year. One of the aspects of the Christmas season that I look forward to most is the beautiful music. Music not only leads us into worship and praise to the Lord, but music can also bring back wonderful memories. One of my favorite selections of Christmas music is Handel's "Messiah," and one of my most treasured Christmas music memories was the year that I joined two thousand other voices singing Handel's Messiah in a "Sing-It-Yourself-Messiah" concert.

This year celebrates the two hundred seventy-fifth anniversary of George Frideric

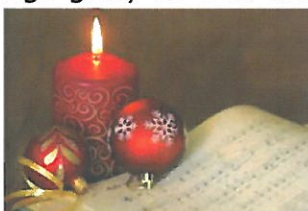


Handel's writing of his famous oratorio "Messiah."

Handel's music brought the words of Isaiah, Zechariah, Malachi, John, and other writers of Scripture to life in music; music that is now included as a part of both our Christmas and Easter holiday celebrations. The text

was compiled by his friend, Charles Jennens, who brought together over forty passages of Scripture to be used as the lyrics for Handel's musical composition.

Each solo and each chorus from the beginning to the end brings glory to God and tells the message of God's salvation through His Son



Jesus, the Messiah, declaring Jesus worthy of praise. The solos and choruses detail Old Testament prophecy that foretold the coming of the Messiah, where we hear the words of Isaiah: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." There are the Gospel accounts of the shepherds being told of the birth of the Messiah, and the host of angels singing "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

The oratorio continues detailing the suffering of the Messiah, His death, His resurrection, and His reigning on high forever and ever in the Hallelujah Chorus, taken from Revelation: "Alleluia, for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth." And at the conclusion we hear again the words of the Apostle John from the book of Revelation: "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, and hath

redeemed us to God by His blood, to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and blessing. Blessing and honour, glory and power be unto Him; be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne and unto the Lamb, forever and ever, forever and ever, Amen."

For me, Handel's "Messiah" is a wonderful presentation of the love of God, how He reached out to us, not because we deserved it, but because of His love. God made a way for us to be reconciled to Him, and as we recall those words of Isaiah the prophet used by Handel: "For unto us a child is born..." we can celebrate what God did by sending His Son as a child, born as one of us, yet fully God; born to take our sin and our shame, nailing it to the cross, yet conquering death; born in lowliness, yet raised in glory, worthy of our praise; for He is the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. He is the Lamb that is worthy to receive all praise!

"And He shall reign forever and ever..."

Have a very Merry Christmas,
Pastor Neil



Merry Christmas



WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

It's **Christmas** and it's **"All About That Baby."** It's a bit unusual, but if you'd like to know more, there are sheep coming to our church on Saturday, December 10th at 3:00 and to both services on Sunday, December 11th who have some sheep knowledge to share with us. You'll find out what sheep talk about. You might be surprised! Fleece dos. Wool blowouts. Sheep-inators.

Some children who've come to Bethlehem for the census, Nathaniel and his siblings, who take care of the family's sheep, learn that the Messiah, who they have been looking for, might be coming in a way they never expected.



Should they be looking for a King or a Baby? And if the Baby is a King – It Changes EVERYTHING! Angels have a message for sheep and people alike. Guess who "gets" it?

At the Sunday services, before the first through sixth grade children present their musical program, the kids from the Beginner Department, ages 2 through 6, will also be sharing the Christmas story through song, signing, and speaking parts—at least that's the plan. It is always our hope that the practicing we do on Sunday mornings and the work that parents do at home helping their little ones learn their "part," is evident when the little ones take the stage. "Take the stage" is historically exactly what they do. It's wonderful to watch.

Faith BFC's children look forward to sharing their Christmas gift of on-stage

performances with you. Join us on December 10th and 11th for some Christmas joy.

Children's Ministry

Ladies Tea 2016

Over 150 ladies were in attendance for the Women of Faith Ladies Fall Tea this year.

The fall theme was created on each table with decorative pumpkins and fall décor in the centerpieces,



hurricane candles, napkins, and plates. Around the room were mums and the warm colors of fall.

The sights were augmented by the lovely sound of beautiful music and a solo from Rachel Ruhl. Our lovely MC was Karen Uhrich.

Adding to the sights and sounds were the aromas and tastes of the menu. It was a hearty fall fare of minestrone soup, apple craisin coleslaw, baked spinach-feta filo rolls, southern egg salad tea sandwiches, open faced ham & cucumber sandwiches, Norwegian almond cookies (Kransekaga), stuffed strawberries, cranberry bliss bars, and fresh apple cakelettes.

Our guest speaker was Lisa Landis from WJTL who spoke of her struggle through a life-

threatening infection and how God was, at once, her strength and her ultimate healer. She



recounted the discovery of an issue, the identification of her illness, her trials and fears, and how she was held in the palm of

His hand through it all. She stressed the importance of the power of prayer for strength and healing both spiritually and physically.

We have received word that ladies came away from the day feeling touched, delighted, refreshed, pampered, and/or feted. Thank you for sharing with us and please know that whether you were able to attend this year or not, you are cordially invited next year. We would be honored to serve you!

*In His service,
The Women of Faith Ministry
at Faith Bible Fellowship Church*



Special Christmas Services

- December 10th – 3pm Children's Christmas Musical Matinee
- December 11th – 9am & 10:45am - Beginner SS Department Children's Christmas Program & Children's Christmas Musical
- December 11th – 6pm – Annual Congregational Meeting
- December 24th – 7pm – Annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- December 25th – 9am @ Stables – Traditional Christmas Service
- December 25th – 10:15am – Annual Family Christmas Service @ Family Life Center - (Bring a snack to share & lawn chairs or blankets if you wish to sit as a family-with regular seating in the back)