



Joshua's Journal

Reaching People for Christ - GOD First!

From the Desk of the Pastor ...

Rev. Dr. Robert L. Grove



Christmas is such a wonderful time of the year. I still get excited when I think about the wonderful gift that I received in 1977. It was at that time that I said, “yes” to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I encourage, exhort, and plead with anyone who has not accepted Christ as Savior, don’t delay. There is no greater joy than knowing that heaven awaits all who receive Jesus as Lord of their lives. The Bible tells us that, ‘God so loves the world that He gave to us His only ***Begotten Son*** that whosoever believes in Him will not perish but will have everlasting life’. It does not get any better than that!

Further, brothers and sisters, stay strong in the Lord and in the power of **His** might. We need all the members to put your ‘shoulders to the wheel’ and continue to pray and work hard as we move into a new year with the JBC Activity Center (JBCAC) on the horizon.

Thank God for your prayers because prayer works. Your tithes, offerings, and special offerings, are also needed to finish the work that God has assigned for us to do. I look forward to the ground breaking ceremony and dedication of the JBCAC in 2016. *By faith and works, it shall come to pass.*



Always remember, God loves you and I do too!



Web Address: <http://www.joshuabapt.org>

Joshua's Mission Statement

Joshua Baptist Church is a Christian Church under the direct leadership of the Lord Jesus Christ. We are also a Missionary Baptist Church committed to the salvation of the lost, conversion of the unregenerate, and the spiritual growth of the saved. We seek to follow Christ as He leads us, cultivate a bond of Christian love, one with another, and to truly and tangibly care for those in need. As Christians, we covet a consistent holy and liberated lifestyle that testifies to our being a born again believer in Jesus Christ, as we strive to fulfill our purpose of *Reaching People For Christ*. Remember, GOD First, we walk by faith and not by sight.

Adopted

September 24, 1998

Amended

July 30, 2005

Amended

May 9, 2012



Merry Christmas



FROM: JOSHUA'S CHILDREN'S CHURCH MINISTRY

Merry Christmas Everybody!!



I Said a Christmas Prayer for You
Because the season's near.
I didn't ask for riches
But for gifts so much more dear.

I asked for joyful gatherings
With your family all round,
And for carols to inspire you
With their old familiar sound.

I asked for quiet moments
In your heart on Christmas morn,
For a special time to celebrate
The Savior who was born.

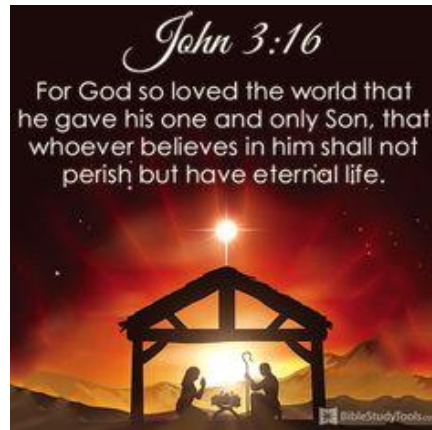
I asked for friends to send their best
That you might know they care;
I asked for peace and love and hope,
And I know God heard my prayer.

Nancy Parker Brummett



Restore the joy of Christmas to my heart

Q: What do snowmen eat for breakfast?
A: Snowflakes.



Q: What did Adam say on the day before Christmas?
A: It's Christmas, Eve!

Isaiah 9:6 (KJV)

*F*or 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, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

...the holidays are hard for some of us

Jesus, I celebrate You— I celebrate Your marvelous incarnation, the Word becoming flesh. Lord, I lift up to You all those who are burdened with heavy, laboring hearts this season— whether from depression, anxiety, mental illness, or internal crisis. **YOU ARE STRONG ENOUGH TO HOLD US ALL.** Just as that first Christmas was the initiation of Your inexplicably great rescue plan, I pray that **this Christmas** will be the start of Your new rescue mission in the lives of these sufferers. You are Love. You are Truth. You are the Mighty Redeemer. I entrust my heart to You and ask that You would hold those for whom I'm praying— in a way that is felt. Amen.

-Jackie Lea Sommers

Ecclesiastes 9:4(NIV) Anyone who is among the living has hope...



The Candy Cane

Traditional ~ Adapted by Charles Kirkpatrick





Theme: The True Meaning of Christmas


He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his stripes you have been healed. 1 Peter 2:24; *The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.* Psalm 23:1


The candy cane is a long-time Christmas tradition. Everywhere we look we see them. They are used as decorations on Christmas trees and, of course, they are one of the most popular of all Christmas treats. I have heard several stories about the history and meaning of the candy cane. I don't know if they are true, but I do think that the candy cane can teach us a few things about the true meaning of Christmas.

First of all, if you look at the candy cane like this  it looks like the letter J. Jesus starts with the letter J, so that should remind us of Jesus and help us to remember that Christmas is Jesus' birthday.

If you look at the candy cane like this  it looks like a shepherd's crook. The shepherd used his crook to keep the sheep from wandering away from the flock and getting lost or eaten by a wild animal. The Bible says, "The Lord is my shepherd." The candy cane should remind us that Jesus is our shepherd and he will keep us from wandering away and getting lost or hurt.

The candy cane is mostly white.  White is a symbol of purity. That should remind us that Jesus was the spotless Lamb of God and that because he came to be the sacrifice for our sin, we can become as white as snow.

As you know, the candy cane has three red stripes. The Bible tells us that before he was crucified, Jesus was beaten with a whip which made blood-red stripes across his back. The Bible says that we are healed by those stripes. The stripes  on the candy cane should remind us that Jesus suffered and died, so that we can have everlasting life.

To many people, the candy cane is a meaningless decoration  seen at Christmas time or just a piece of candy to be eaten and enjoyed. I hope that this year, every time you see a candy cane, you will be reminded of the true meaning of Christmas.

Lord, we thank you that Jesus is the Good Shepherd who keeps us from harm. We thank you that because of his suffering and death on the cross, we have life everlasting. Help us to remember that we find the true meaning of Christmas in him.

www.sermons4kids.com



"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6



Christmas has grown so commercialized that it's hard to keep the focus on the true meaning of the celebration—the celebration of Jesus' birth and life and the celebration of love for one another and for the entire human family.

On behalf of Pastor Robert Grove, Deacon Eugene Wright and the entire CAPPS staff, we wish you and your family a blessed Christmas Season! May the love of God fill your homes as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Merry Christmas!



Christmas Candy Cane Poem about Jesus

Look at the Candy Cane
What do you see?
Stripes that are red
Like the blood shed for me
White is for my Savior
Who's sinless and pure!
"J" is for Jesus My Lord, that's for sure!
Turn it around
And a staff you will see
Jesus my shepherd
Was born for Me!



Christmas Calm: Ten Tips for a Stress-Free Holiday Season

If you're aiming to simplify Christmas, take time to ponder ways to cut stress, save money and tame over-the-top traditions. Get armed! Try these ten simple strategies to calm holiday chaos and rein in the seasonal overkill this year.

10 Simple Strategies

Prune the to-do list. Aim to knock down the list of chores to the rock-bottom necessity.

Cut the gift list. Limit gifts to children only, draw names, or organize a gift exchange.

Wrap as you go. Sticky notes will help you keep track of gift contents.

Buy, don't bake. Turn your back on the oven this year. Supermarkets, bakeries and the freezer department of the discount warehouse are a great source for delicious, pre-baked holiday treats.

Call, don't send cards. Reach out and touch... Online greeting cards are easy, inexpensive & fun to send.

Scale back décor. Substitute a simple door wreath for outdoor lighting. Focusing holiday decor on the Big Three--front door, tree and focal point--can bring a festive feel to the house.

Cut the clean-a-thon. Focus cleaning attention on kitchen and public rooms.

Downsize dishwashing. Move to paper plates!

Finger food, not feast. A smorgasbord of tasty tidbits is easier and host pot-luck events.

Stay home! A holiday "stay-cation" allows for evening drives to see the lights, family camp-outs in front of the Christmas tree, and evenings spent with carols and popcorn. Fun!



MEN'S RETREAT 2015 MYRTLE BEACH, SC



Rev. Melvin Scott delivers a "Word for the Day".



Members listen as Dr. Bell talks about men's health.



Brotherhood President, Dea. Tony Glover thanks our Guest Speaker, Dr. Thaddeus J. Bell.



Bro. Zacc Oree takes over Mentorship Ministry from Dea. Frank Brown.



Everyone enjoyed a great fellowship dinner on Friday night!!



Mentors are recognized for their work in 2015.

We thank Trustee Grampus for telling us what to do if we are *"Too Hot or Too Cold"*, Deacon Singleton for *"If I Had No Loot"*, Deacons Anderson & F. Brown for our *Daily Bread lessons*, Rev. Scott for *"Word of the Day"*, and Pastor Grove for reminding us to keep, *"Moving Forward on a Strong Foundation!"*

JBC Brotherhood returned to Myrtle Beach, SC for their annual retreat. It was a fun time for the 28 men who gathered together for teaching, preaching, laughter & fun. As we stretched out for three days, it was clear, Christian men know how to have fun too!!!



DECEMBER

6 White Oak Manor—2:00 p.m.

8 Winding Chain Prayer Meeting: Teams 5, 6, 7 and 8 hosting—6:30 p.m.

11 Families Helping Families Gifts Drop off 3:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.

12 Families Helping Families Gifts Drop off 7:00 a.m.—10:00 a.m.

13 Sis. Catherine Pratt Day/ Sunday School Breakfast—9:00 a.m.

17 Budget & Calendar Meeting—6:00 p.m.

19 Tommie's Closet—10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

20 Christmas Cantata—10:15 a.m.

31 Watch Night Service—9:00 p.m. - Midnight



Birthdays of the Month

1 Denesha Williams

2 Joe Pugh

10 Dea. Leroy Brown

16 Mary McNeal

17 Devonya Brown

17 O'Keenya Desaussure

18 Gregory Salley

18 Antonio Brewer Jr.

18 Zaniyah Sanders Smith

18 Lynette Witcher

20 Jocelyn Roberts

20 Katrina Simmons

21 Danielle Capers

22 Kandra Pear

27 Deaconess Shelley Brown

27 Lakesha Cooper

28 Ariyana Hughes



Feliz Navidad



Welcome
NEW MEMBERS

Candidates for Baptism

Darone Rivers
Ervin Townsend

Christian Experience

Betty McKeever

Restoration

Latasha Peek
Ashley Simmons

8 Rev. Hester and Bro. Sammie King

24 Bro. Ernest and Sis. Betty Rouse

