

THE CARILLON

First Baptist Church

November 2018

1 Corinthians, Chapter 13 The Christmas Version

~written by Sharon Jaynes

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir's cantata but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

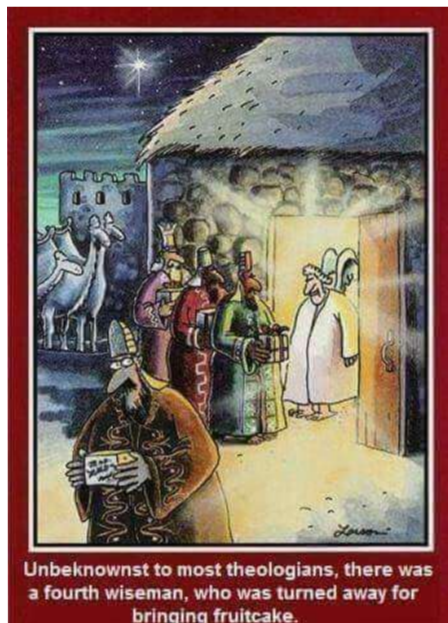
Love stops the cooking to hug the child. Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband. Love is kind, though harried and tired. Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to

get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way. Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust, but giving the gift of love will endure.

Merry Christmas and lots of love to you and yours!



~submitted by Tony See

December Birthdays

| | |
|----------------|----|
| Florence Conte | 3 |
| Audrey Cash | 25 |
| Steve Rockhill | 31 |
| Kendall Miller | 31 |

December Anniversaries

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| Dave & June Johnson | 20 |
| Ken & Judy Conner | 22 |

December Verse of the Month

When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.
Matthew 2:10

A Soldier's Christmas Poem

- written by Lance Corporal James M. Schmidt

-submitted by Joan Parker

'Twas the night before Christmas, He lived all alone,
In a one bedroom house, Made of plaster and stone.

I had come down the chimney, With presents to give,
And to see just who, In this home did live.

I looked all about, A strange sight did I see,
No tinsel, no presents, Not even a tree.

No stocking by the mantle, Just boots filled with sand,
On the wall hung pictures, Of far distant lands.

With medals and badges, Awards of all kinds,
A sober thought, Came through my mind.

For this house was different, It was dark and dreary,
I found the home of a soldier, Once I could see clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping, Silent, alone,
Curled up on the floor, In this one bedroom home.

The face was so gently, The room in such disorder,
Not how I pictured, A United States soldier.

Was this the hero, Of whom I'd just read?
Curled up on a poncho, The floor for a bed?

I realized the families, That I saw this night,
Owed their lives to these soldiers, Who were willing to fight.

Soon round the world, The children would play,
And grownups would celebrate, A bright Christmas day.

They all enjoyed freedom, Each month of the year,
Because of the soldiers, Like the one laying here.



I couldn't help wonder, How many lay alone,
On a cold Christmas Eve, In a land far from home.

The very thought, Brought a tear to my eye,
I dropped to my knees, And started to cry.

The soldier awakened, And I heard a rough voice,
"Santa don't cry, This life is my choice.

I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more,
My life is my God, My country, My corps."

The soldier rolled over, And drifted to sleep,
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.

I kept watch for hours, So silent and still,
And we both shivered, From the cold night's chill.

I didn't want to leave, On that cold, dark night,
This guardian of honor, So willing to fight.

Then the soldier rolled over, With a voice soft and pure,
Whispered, "Carry on Santa, It's Christmas Day, all is secure."

One look at my watch, And I knew he was right,
"Merry Christmas my friend, And to all a goodnight."

A Christ-centered, community serving, Biblical church

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Church phone: 609-859-8967

To:

Here's your newsletter for November 25, 2018