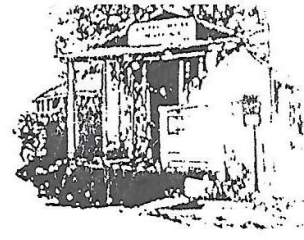


**The Acmar Soul Miner**  
*Searching for wisdom  
As for hidden treasures...  
For the Lord gives wisdom*



*Acmar United Methodist Church December 2020 Vol. 21 Issue 12 Acmar Post Office*

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**Christmas**

*A calendar without a story is inadequate. It is hardly worth arriving at a place on the right day if we don't know who we are when we get there, if we don't know what to do.*<sup>1</sup>

Those are the words of Eugene Peterson in *Epiphanies: Stories for the Christian Year*.

Peterson notes that it was an extraordinary achievement of the ancient mind to mark off accurately months, weeks, and days in our annual trip around the sun.

Christians inherited a Roman calendar that was adequate for getting up in the morning, calculating seasons or setting a date. The Roman stories were not adequate.

Early Christians told stories of Jesus and their experience with Him. As the stories were told and retold clustered around the calendar, they pushed the Roman stories off. While the numbers stayed the same, the "Roman" year slowly gave way to a "Christian" year.

The Christian year is a rhythm that moves from anticipating Christ, Christ's birth, life, death, resurrection and sending of the Spirit. It moves to the Christian's rhythm of obedience, faith and blessing.

Over time some days took on new meanings or were overtaken by new traditions. Advent – the season of waiting for the arrival of our Lord – is often buried under shopping days as we wait for Christmas presents.

"Christmas" is "Christ's mass." Mass is the central act of worship of the Catholic Church.

Christmas or "Feast of the Nativity" is an annual festival celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. Although the month and date of Jesus' birth are unknown, the church in the early fourth century fixed the date as December 25.

December 25 was the date of the winter solstice on the Roman calendar. It was one of those dates that remained the same but the Christian story pushed off the Roman story.

Linking Jesus to the Sun was supported by various Biblical passages. Malachi 4:2 proclaims, "The Sun of Righteousness shall rise with healing in His wings..."

In the fourth-century Saint Augustine explains the date chosen to celebrate Christ's nativity: "Hence it is that He was born on the day which is the shortest in our earthly reckoning and from which subsequent days begin to increase in length. He, therefore, who bent low and lifted us up chose the shortest day, yet the one whence light begins to increase."

***Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields keeping watch over their flock by night.***

***And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.***

***Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.***

***"For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.***

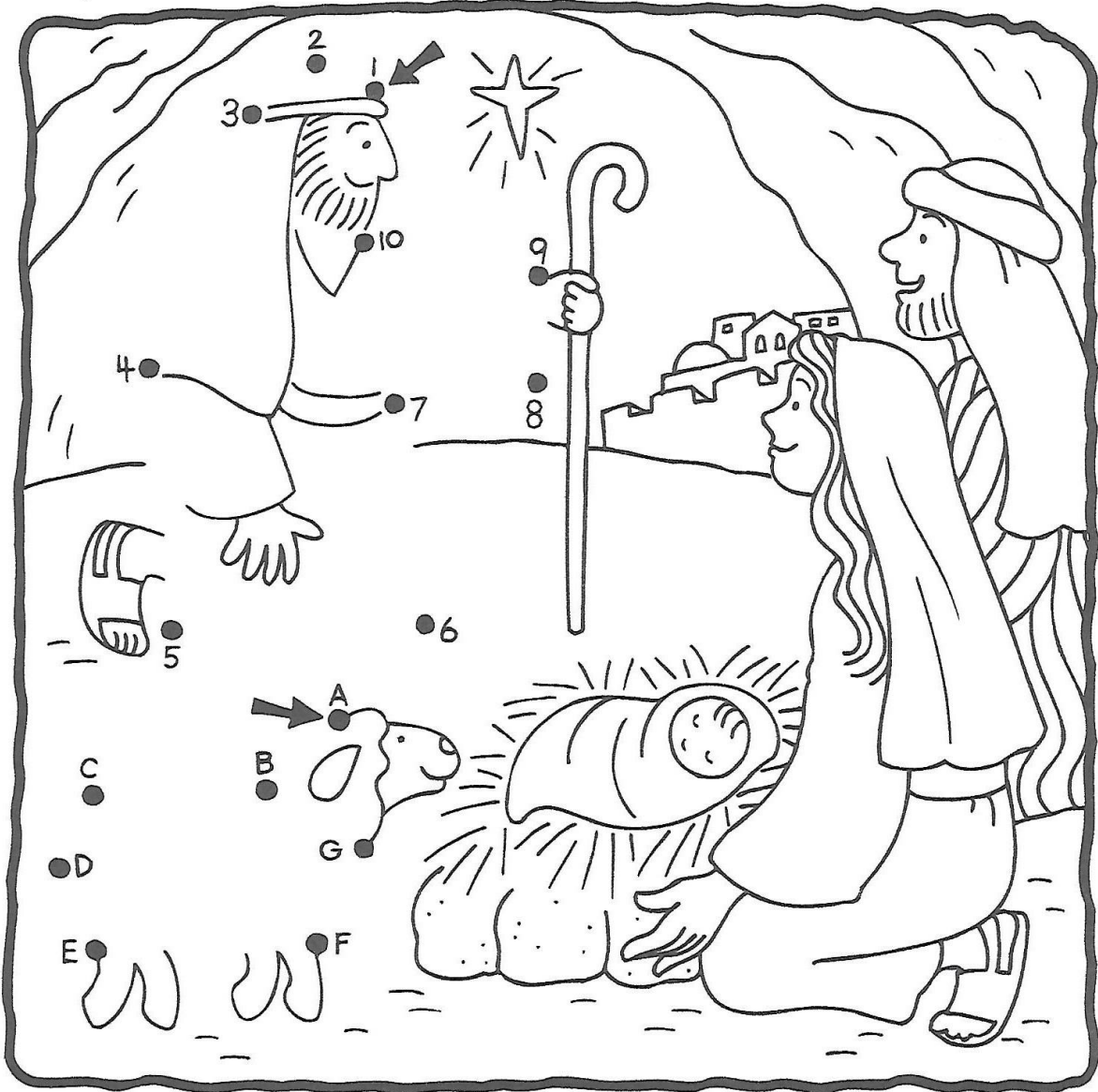
***"And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." (Luke 2:8-12)***

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<sup>1</sup>Peterson Eugene H. & Griffin, Emilie,  
Ed. *Epiphanies: Stories for the Christian Year*.  
Grand Rapids MI: Baker Books 2003 page 7

# Children's Camp

Complete the dot-to-dots to see who came to visit baby Jesus.



Cross off all the numbers below.

Have someone help you read the words that are left. Say the good news together!

1	2	J	3	e	4	5	s	u	s	6	i	7	s	8	9	b	5	o	2	3	r	n	4
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

**Look Here:**

**Good news! Today Jesus has been born.**  
(Luke 2:11)

**Digging In:**

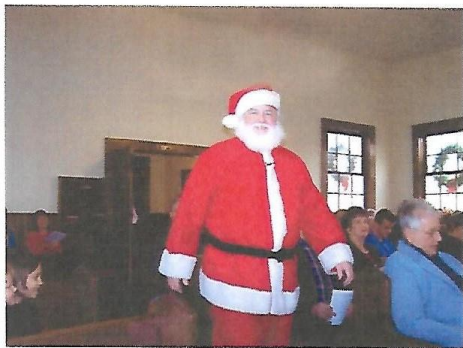
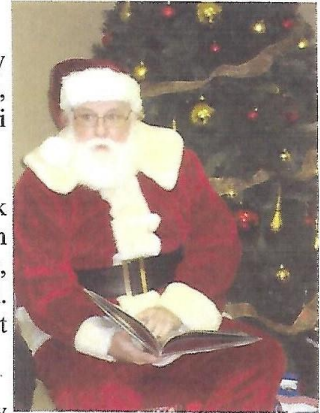
Shepherds watched their sheep at night.  
An angel said that Jesus had been born.  
They went to see Jesus lying in a manger.



## *The Acmar Community Quilt*

In 2005, when Dave Navert first walked in to Acmar UMC, adults cheerfully greeted Dave and his wife, Jeani, while children looked on with wide-eyed awe, wondering if this really is how Santa Claus looks on his day off! Dave and Jeani became members of the church in early 2006.

Dave and Jeani became part of our church family after he had retired from work on a maintenance crew for oil tanks. Born in Washington State, he had also been a salmon fisherman, which he really enjoyed. Dave and Jeani married in 1984, and in the late 1980s, they served as Santa and Mrs. Santa at the Eastwood Mall. Jeani remembers a special time when a couple came with a toddler they had just adopted, and visiting Santa was the first thing they wanted to do as a family.

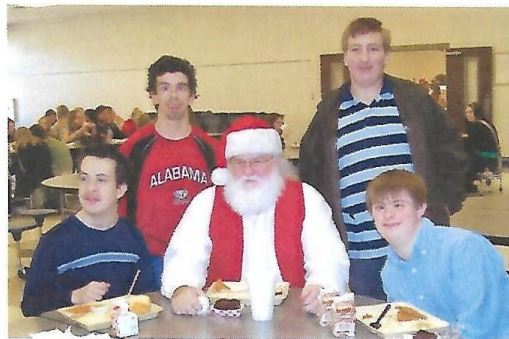


During the time of the coal mining company days, there were annual Christmas gatherings where the children would be urged to sing, "Up on the Housetop" as loud as they could and Santa would appear! There would be baskets of fruit and goodies for each family. At our Acmar Community Christmas party in 2006, the folks who gathered to help us celebrate also sang the song and Dave, uh, Santa, came strolling in! Dave filled this role for the next ten years to the delight of many, young and old until health problems became more limiting. He also brought his portrayal out into the community by helping with Christmas celebrations with Moody Challenged Adults, a social club for adults with special needs.

More than once, he also visited a small group of young people with special needs at Moody High School. Dave/Santa would arrive at lunchtime and have a meal with his special friends who were so excited to have him sit at their table. (And many of the "cool" teenagers were smiling and a bit envious of this group with their special guest!) Even the lunch ladies smiled and were touched when he went through the line and produced candy canes for each lady from the seemingly never-ending supply from his festive vest pocket.





















Dave also worked with Urban Ministry in Birmingham, a ministry of the North Alabama Conference. He became a lay speaker and served as pastor at Ragan Chapel in 2012 – 2013.

Dave passed away in November and is survived by Jeani, children Amy and John, step-sons Brian and Wesley, and granddaughters Ansley, Hannah, and Haley. Though he wore many different hats throughout his life, his role as our own Santa will be how we remember him best especially as he read the story of Jesus' birth.



## December 2020

**Worship in our Church Building on Sundays at 9 am / Wearing Masks**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>MOODY CHRISTMAS PARADE</b> December 12 at 5 pm		1  Terrie Denny	2	3	4	5
6  <b>CHURCH</b> 9 am	7	8  Sis Bosworth  Walter Cash	9	10  Yvonne Howard	11	12  Jimmy Byers Elliott Lowery 
13 <b>CHURCH</b> 9 am  Christine Garrett  Joseph Howard 	14	15	16	17	18  Ava Anderson  Lenae Wimberly	19
20  <b>CHURCH</b> 9 am	21	22  <b>1<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF WINTER</b>  Jane Byers	23  Debbie Kendrick	24  <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>	25  <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>	26  Ti Carpenter
27  <b>CHURCH</b> 9 am	28	29	30	31  <b>NEW YEAR'S EVE</b>		

### Soul Food for December

Mon., November 30 **Isaiah 40:1-11**  
 Tue., December 1 **Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13**  
 Wed., December 2 **2 Peter 3:8-15a**  
 Thur., December 3 **Luke 1:26-38**  
 Fri., December 4 **John 14:15-27**  
 Sat., December 5 **Mark 6:30-46**



Food for the Soul

Mon., December 7 **Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11**  
 Tue., December 8 **Psalms 126**  
 Wed., December 9 **1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**  
 Thur., December 10 **Matthew 1:18-25**  
 Fri., December 11 **Joshua 1:1-11**  
 Sat., December 12 **Luke 6:27-36**

Mon., December 14 **2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16**  
 Tue., December 15 **Luke 1:47-55**  
 Wed., December 16 **Romans 16:25-27**  
 Thur., December 17 **Luke 2:1-20**  
 Fri., December 18 **1 Corinthians 15:50-58**  
 Sat., December 19 **Matthew 6:25-34**

**Acmar UMC / P.O. Box 85 / 4107 Old Acton Road**  
**Moody, AL 35004 Phone: 640-4325**  
**Moody Crossroads / Intersection Hwy. 411/Cty. 10**  
**Take Cty. 10 W. (Park Ave.) toward Trussville;**  
**Travel 1 mile; Right on Acmar Rd; travel 2 miles;**  
**Left onto Old Acton Rd.; Church is on the left**

Mon., December 21 **Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3**  
 Tue., December 22 **Psalms 148**  
 Wed., December 23 **Galatians 4:4-7**  
 Thur., December 24 **Luke 2:21-40**  
 Fri., December 25 **Luke 2:1-7**  
 Sat., December 26 **Matthew 14:28-33**

Mon., December 28 **Isaiah 60:1-6**  
 Tue., December 29 **Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14**  
 Wed., December 30 **Ephesians 3:1-12**  
 Thur., December 31 **Matthew 2:1-12**  
 Fri., January 1  
 Sat., January 2