

## THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

Christmas means more than snow and sleigh bells or glittering gifts on Christmas trees.

Christmas means forgetting self and remembering those who have no Christmas. It means leaving our little heavens as Jesus left His big heaven to visit those who need help and who need to hear a message of peace and hope and cheer.

Christmas means the bright eyes of little children made glad by a demonstration of unselfish love.

Christmas means revived hope in the hearts of fathers and mothers who because of some tragedy had lost hope of giving their children a merry Christmas until a modern Good Samaritan came along.

Christmas means that kindness is "Queen for a Day," and what a happier world she makes! We cannot help wishing that she would rule the world every day of the year. What transformations are wrought by kindness! It turns hovels of hate into havens of happiness!

Christmas means that a hard, cruel, selfish world, weary of crime and terrorism, looks for a brief time into the face of God. It looks into a manger into the face of a little Babe. It sees a fleeting vision of what a little Babe can do to make a better world. It hears for a moment the song of the angels, singing: "Peace on earth, good will to men." It sees how hard, selfish hearts can be broken and the foun-

tains of love begin to flow in a glad-some stream. It sees the miser's clutched hand relax for a day as a little flash of light from heaven shines into his darkened soul. It sees businessmen forget the profit they planned to get and begin to plan to give. And how many suddenly discover that we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give! Christmas helps many people begin to live!

Christmas causes prodigal sons and daughters to pause in their wayward, downward course and think of Mother and Father and home. Then little remembrances are sent to revive hope in the hearts of lonely, hungry ones waiting by the mailbox.

No, Christmas is not in the snow or the tinsel tree or even in the gifts we send. It is the spirit of love, it is the Spirit of God walking abroad in the land. It is the only time of the year when some hearts open to let Him in. Oh, that we would make every day Christmas! Christmas means we have heard the music of the bells of love. It means we have smelled the fragrance of the rose of love. Christmas means that romance is still alive in our hearts. Christmas means we can still feel the power of the love of God.—*By Adlai A. Esteb, Signs of the Times, Dec 1976*



## North Cascade Seventh-day Adventist

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# The Trumpeter



### "EVERLASTING LIGHT" A Christmas Cantata for a Dark World

The long awaited Christmas Celebration is here at last! Please invite all of your friends and family to the North Cascade Church performance of *Everlasting Light*, a Christmas Concert including full Choir, Orchestra, Junior Choir and Drama.

This is a concert for all ages so don't hesitate to call everyone you know and share with them the story of Jesus' birth and celebration of our God's Everlasting Light in this dark world.

#### Performance Dates:

December 11th 7pm

December 12th 11am and 7pm

### THERE WILL BE NO FIRST SERVICE ON DEC. 12TH!

We look forward to Celebrating with You!

### 2009 TAX RECEIPTS

Funds must be received by December 31 if you are wanting credit for charitable contributions in 2009. The last Sabbath of the calendar year is December 26 so please plan accordingly.

Online Giving is available on the church website: [www.ncsda.org](http://www.ncsda.org)

Tax receipts will be available the later part of January 2010.

Donnajean Crawford, Rick Schafer- Assistant Treasurers

### WOMEN'S MINISTRIES ANNUAL COOKIE EXCHANGE

Tomorrow, Sunday, December 6, at the home of Kaarsten Lang the Women's Ministries is sponsoring our Annual Cookie Exchange. The fun begins at 10:00 a.m. with brunch. Bring a dish or two for the brunch and if you want to exchange cookies, bring your cookies to exchange. If you bring one dozen cookies, you can exchange them for a dozen cookies etc.

### MEXICAN DINNER

Our sister Spanish church will be selling Mexican food this evening from 6—9 p.m. to raise money for their church's SAS Worthy Student fund. Come by and purchase your yummy Saturday night supper and support this worthwhile cause.

### JOAN HILDE'S BIBLE STUDY

Please make note there is a change of day and time for the Bible Study group that meets at Joan Hilde's home. The Study will be on MONDAYS AT 10:00 A.M.

## PINNING CEREMONY

All are invited to Lydia Apt's graduation from Nursing School. She will receive her Registered Nurse Pin Thursday, December 10, 5:00 p.m. at the Bellingham Technical College, Bldg G.

## BABY SHOWER/VESPERS

Saturday evening, December 19, 5:00 p.m. all **families** are invited to a brief Vespers followed by a Baby Shower for Paul & Heather Haberly and their new son, Landon in the Fellowship Hall.

Because Landon was born prematurely it has been in the hospital and the family has incurred a lot of expense; therefore the group gift will be cash. Contact Joan Smith or Lois Dietrich if you would like to contribute.

Refreshments will be POTLUCK. Please bring fruit salad or hors d'oeuvre.

## MEN'S MINISTRIES BREAKFAST

All men invited to Men's Breakfast, 8 o'clock a.m. (yes, that's one whole hour later) Sunday, December 6. Food and food for thought provided.

At 9 am, all men interested are welcome to help move risers and move pews for Cantata setup—we should be done by 11 am."

## SUNSHINE BANDS

**Mark Your Calendars!** The next Sunshine Band will be December 12, 2:30 p.m. at the Sedro-Woolley Life Care Center.

## COMPUTER TRAINING WORKSHOPS!!

Have you been wanting to do a computer applications project or maybe brush up your publishing skills, or you want to finally feel confident about downloading your pictures from your camera?

I will be hosting the workshops after Christmas, Monday, January 11th and 18th 6pm-8pm. Bring your project with you and plan to be amazed at how computer savvy you really are! Please sign up in the school office or email me the dates you would like to attend. Thank you—*Della Wisdom* [dwisdom.sas@gmail.com](mailto:dwisdom.sas@gmail.com)

## PRAYER VIGIL FOR THE HOMELESS

December 21 is the longest night of the year and will be the date for the Annual Prayer Vigil on the steps of the Mt Vernon Court House to recognize all the homeless in our county. Please bring your own candle and meet on the steps at 5:00 p.m. for a short service of singing, prayer and personal stories. This is an opportunity for our church to join other churches in the community and pledge our support to help in whatever ways we can and show compassion for the hundreds of individuals who are on our streets each night.

## YOUTH CONGRESS

For the first time ever, the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America is combining four youth events with separate pro-

grams in one location: Columbus, Ohio. The April 7-11, 2010, "Just Claim It" youth congress will feature the World Youth Prayer Congress, the Youth Ministries Leadership Summit, NAD Ignition (for young adults), and the Children's Worship Festival. Save the date, and plan to attend. For event details, schedules, and registration information, visit [www.jci2.org](http://www.jci2.org).

## SKI SWAP

**TOMORROW, Sunday, December 6,** will be our annual Ski Swap, 5:00 p.m. at the Youth Center

The (almost) world famous Omstead family burritos, drinks and desserts will be available for purchase....so come hungry!

Learn how to properly wax and tune up your equipment at Big Ed's Workshop. All the supplies will be there for you to wax and tune your own equipment.

There is a limited supply of free equipment for loan, including skis, boards, boots, helmets and goggles available to check out.

**DOOR PRIZES!!!** Door prizes include two free lift tickets for the Mt. Baker ski area. (Must be present to win.)

## BILL VALLEAU MEMORIAL SERVICE

This Sunday, Dec 6 at 3:00 p.m. there will be a Memorial service at the Mount Vernon SDA church for Bill Valleau who passed away Sunday, November 29 at 1:23 pm. Please pass this message on to everyone who might know this family.

## THOUGHTS.....

No Room. They are the most heart-rending words in the Bible. No room. Would you have said that? Don't you say it, every day? Don't you say it to Christ when He asks you for your heart: "Go away and let me sleep. I've got no time for you, no room in my heart...I don't know you"? We're all innkeepers, with room for everybody and everything but Him. Not many of us really let Him in.

I heard once about an old Scottish minister who used to go around knocking on the doors of his town and asking whoever answered the knock, "Does Jesus live here?" People stared at him and told jokes about him. They thought he was crazy. But was he? - *by Roy Rogers, These Times, Dec 1961*



## PRAYER GARDEN

*Remember in Prayer*

**Dennis Carman**

Very seriously ill—hospitalized at Skagit Valley Hospital.

**Darlene Rhine**

Facing major surgery if her heart Doctor feels she is strong enough.

**Baby Landon Haberly**

Landon is improving, but he is still in the hospital.

**Those Serving in the Military**