

Naz E-News

December 17, 2011

Upoming Events

December 21st
No Youth Group

December 24th
Christmas Eve Service at 6
p.m.

December 25th
Christmas Day Service at
10:30 a.m.

Pastor Andy's Corner

Hello Church Family,

I hope that you are enjoying a wonderful week. I am thrilled that Christmas is right around the corner. This is a wonderful time of joy, peace, and excitement as we celebrate the coming birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This is also a very busy time. This time of year can get so busy that we lose track of what Christmas is all about.

I am thankful for all of God's blessings and gifts for my family and me. I am thankful for the family time that I am blessed to enjoy. God is so good to me. I hope that your heart is filled with thanksgiving as well as you reflect upon God's blessings for your life during this time of the year.

We can receive and we can give. I hope that we can enjoy them both. I am thankful for you all. You constantly add wonderful blessings to my life. I hope and pray that you and your family truly experience God's grace, love, and

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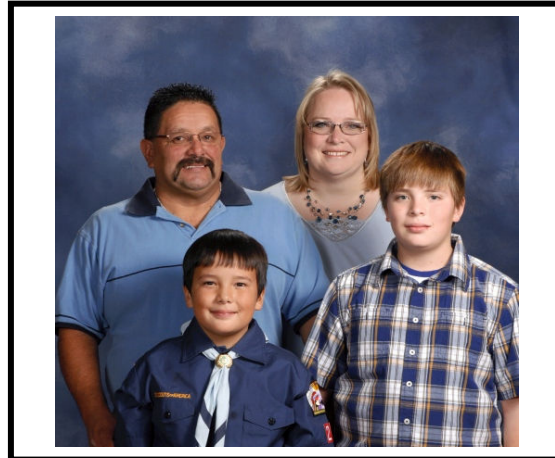
Pastor Andy's Corner ...

bountiful blessings throughout the rest of this year. Have a Merry Christmas!

God Bless,
Pastor Andy

New Sunday School Class

Remember to let Ginny know if you will be attending her new Sunday School Class beginning January 8th. Please let her know this week! You can get in touch with her at (719) 469-4727.



The Rangel Family

We are the Rangel Family. Anthony Rangel, Dee Quick, Carlos Rangel (12) and Zeke Rangel (8). Anthony and I have been married for two years. We love to do things together such as go to the movies, watch funny TV shows, go to Vogel Canyon and go camping. We love sporting events such as the Nuggets and Rockies. Anthony and I are huge Bronco fans, the boys are a little off in that respect with admiring the Cowboys and Packers (we are not sure where we went wrong).

I spends a lot of time watching the boys play on recreational sports teams. They play baseball, football, basketball and soccer. Zeke loves music and is learning to play the piano and is a Cub Scout.

I work at CBR YouthConnect as the Communications Coordinator and on weekends at the Koshare Indian Museum. I apparently have a heart for non-profits.

The boys and I have been attending LJ Naz for about a year. We have loved being a part of the church family and getting to know the other people at the church. Thank you so much for making us feel welcome.

Christmas Crazies

-Lisa Gossman-Steeves

A couple of years ago, I was diagnosed with an illness that I know I have had for some time. Is this illness contagious? Yes. Is it fatal? It could be, depending on how far advanced it becomes. Do I have to change my lifestyle? Yes. Is there a cure? I think so.

The illness is what I call the Christmas Crazies. I diagnosed myself with it a few years ago and I've been trying to overcome it ever since.

So what are the Christmas Crazies?

The Christmas Crazies are brought on by ... Christmas. The disease reappears each year before Thanksgiving (sometimes as early as September) and fully involves its victim by Black Friday. Its symptoms include both compulsively impulsive and planned obsessive spending, high degrees of frenzied baking, making things, shopping, decorating, party-going and eating. Christmas Crazy victims feel an uncontrollable urge to drive to the mall or some other store, send Christmas cards to everyone in their address book, decorate every room in the house or even make their own wrapping paper. They also make sure that their houses are the best-lit on the block, even to the point of causing power outages. Other symptoms include high irritability, which is often seen most when driving or waiting in long lines; zoning out; obsessive list making, and the need to stay up late at night to work on projects. Those who suffer from Christmas Crazies may even become severely irritable or depressed if a lack of money or time prevents them from fulfilling these deeply felt urges. Christmas Crazy victims may call in sick to work when they are not ill or may skip church in order to sleep in or work on projects. Not all Christmas Crazy victims exhibit every one of these symptoms but most suffer from at least two.

My symptoms include obsessive baking and making things, although I haven't tried making my own wrapping paper - yet.

So what is the cure for this onset of craziness that usually ends in a heap of exhaustion on December 25? Practicing the discipline of simplicity. According to www.renovare.us, "Simplicity is the joyful unconcern for possessions we experience as we truly 'seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness' (Matt 6:33). Persons living in simplicity realize freedom from anxiety by viewing possessions as gifts from God, remembering we are stewards to care for God's gifts to us and making our goods available to others. Simplicity is a declaration of war on materialism and it reorients our lives, perspectives, and attitudes."

Simplicity is lived out in the Christmas story. As we see in the scripture, the Holy Family did not have many possessions. They even had to resort to delivering the baby Jesus in a stable because there was no room for them in the inn. Yet, Joseph and Mary were both righteous and obeyed God by allowing him to use them to bring his son into the world. It is an amazing story - one that convicts and encourages me every time.

Although poverty forced Mary and Joseph into a simplistic life, they did not resent it. We as American Christians must strive to practice freedom from materialism. As we attempt to do this throughout the year with the help of the Holy Spirit, I believe we will sense a spirit of freedom by Christmas that we have never previously felt. Somehow the bondage of having to do so much and buy so much will be lifted and we'll enjoy the holiday for what it is - the birthday of Jesus. I am going to strive toward this for next year (because I've already blown it this year). Will you?

KATHY'S SPICE CAKE

Thanks to Kathy Dizmang for providing this recipe that she served a few weeks back at our Café.

1 pkg of spice cake mix
1 egg
1 cube margarine
1 box of powdered sugar (4 cups)
1 (8 oz) pkg. cream cheese
2 eggs

Combine the cake mix with the egg and margarine; pat in a greased 9 x 13 pan. Combine the powdered sugar cream cheese and eggs and mix well. Pour on top of cake. Bake at 350 for 45 minutes. Cut into squares when removed from oven. Then let it cool.