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Christmas Program A Hit



Shari Dvorak and Myrriam Herron sang Silent Night in German while Karin DeRosset, Hannah Patterson, and Curtis Coulter accompany on piano and violins.

This year's Christmas program took a different form than previous years...out of necessity. Several choir members had to be gone at various times. Plus, Jim Dvorak was on outage at TVA Sequoyah. That lasted until just recently.

On top of all this, Karen Kirby had surgery on her left shoulder and could not direct the choir. With the original date for a cantata being December 9, it became apparent that there was no way to get the program ready. Later dates were not good as well, especially December 23 because Mark and Karen needed to visit family in Wisconsin and would not be here.

Someone brought up the idea of putting together a song service to sing carols and maybe have a solo, duet, or quartet sing some selections. That was what got it all started.

It was discovered that we have several singers as well as musicians available. Jack and Karin asked the Brown family from Dayton to

play and sing for us. The seven children came and sang and Mary Brown played the guitar as well as the harp which is a very unusual instrument to have around.

Hannah Patterson was enlisted to play a selection on the piano, and she accompanied Curtis on the violin to Silent Night sung in German by Myrriam Herron and Shari Dvorak.

Jack Traylor has been a musician in hiding. He brought out his accordion and played Silent Night as well.

Mr. David Holcomb came at the request of George and Charlotte Blake. He is the husband of Charlotte's cousin. He played the trumpet for us, a very impressive and enjoyable performance.

Then to end the evening the men's quartet sang Star of Bethlehem and Hannah, Karin, and Curtis played White Christmas on violins and piano.

A time of fellowship followed including the annual brown bag treat by Roger.

The Christmas Program



Cheezee and the lambs made an appearance and told their stories. Kathy always does a good job with the puppets. Ian assisted as well. At right, Shelby Coulter lit the Advent candles for the last time this season.



The Brown Family sang, and Emily was excited—Touchdown!!!



Phil's Corner— Janus the Two-Faced

You may be vaguely aware that the names of our weekdays and months are associated with ancient pagan gods. January, for example, is named after the Roman god Janus.

Janus was a busy god. He was the god of beginnings and transitions, supervisor of gates and doorways. He played a role in the conception of babies and in the passing from youth into adulthood.

He was the god of time. As such, he is pictured as having two faces on his one head. One face looks back in time, the other looks forward into the future. In some artwork he is depicted as holding in his right hand the number 300, and in his left the number 65. Add them together and you get the days of the year.

He was also considered to be the god of the Kalends (from which we get the word 'calendar'), the first day of the months. He was regarded as god not just of the new year, but of the dawn of each new day. The Romans believed that the beginning of anything was an omen for the whole. So, how you started the year would affect the whole year for you. Thus, on the first day of January it became customary to greet one another with cheerful words and good wishes, to exchange figs and honey and dates and coins. Cakes of fat and salt were offered to Janus to invoke his favor for the coming year.

But the truth is, Janus was just a cheap imitation, a flimsy counterfeit.

The Romans were a superstitious bunch, with gods for every situation or condition. They invested a lot of energy in soliciting the favor of the gods to make their lives comfortable and productive, and in fear that they would probably come up short. What a contrast to the one, living God who loves us and wants only what's best for us. "I know the plans I have for you," He says, "plans for your welfare and not to harm you, to give you a future and a hope."

Although Janus is supposed to be the god of time, he required two faces to see in the past and in the future. We know the Everlasting God, the "I Am," who exists outside of and above time; the same yesterday, today and forever; the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.

The Roman philosopher Horace referred to Janus as *Matutine Pater*, 'morning father'. Nice try. The God of the Bible is the Eternal Father, "the Father of Lights," the God who was before there was anything. He alone is the sovereign God by whom and for whom all things exist, whether visible or invisible. He doesn't just observe the passing of time, He controls time and every event in time.

In our vocabulary, someone is two-faced if they are a liar, deceptive, hypocritical. That's a fitting description the 'god of this age' behind Janus: Satan, who is a liar and the father of lies. He only wants to deceive us and

distract us away from the true and living God. He wants us to live in darkness and superstition and fear, ending in death, away from life, having no hope and without God in the world.

Praise God that we can personally know the Almighty God who loves us so much that He wants us to spend eternity with Him; who gave Himself as a sacrifice to make that happen; who dwells in the hearts of all those who love Him; and who greets us as a Father does his child whom He loves.

I'd rather have Jesus than Janus, wouldn't you?



David Holcomb, Charlotte Blake's cousin's husband played the trumpet.



Our Financially Supported Missionaries

Dave & Ninette Cox
 Joyce DeRosset
 Fred & Grace Ely
 Bob & Carol Evaul
 Alec & Tammy Harrison
 Dick & Sara Hart
 Hazel Neddo

Our Prayer Supported Missionaries

Bud & Lolly Fritz
 Mark & Candy Garrett
 Ken Hood
 David & Marcia Jones
 Reginald Lisemby

January and February Anniversaries

January 15—Cindy and Dale Poole
 February 14—Mike and Gwen Donovan
 February 16—Jason and Jennifer Welch
 February 18—Robert and Marlene Patterson

February Nursery Schedule

February 3—Charlotte Blake and Karen Kirby
 February 10—Betty Ray and Jo Alice Stultz
 February 17—Cindy Poole and Winnie Davey
 February 24—Raymond Weaver and Curtis Coulter

The glass front cabinet in the nursery contains disinfecting agents. Please wipe small toys as children use them and spray the larger objects. Be sure the lid on the wipes get closed so they do not dry up.

January & February Birthdays

January 21—Kathy Shelley
 January 24—Jeff Davis
 January 26—Susan Iles
 January 28—Sara Hart
 January 29—Barbara Metzger
 January 29—Daniel Hart
 January 30—Keith Hubbard
 January 30—Amanda Writesman
 February 1—Trey Borders and Sandy Weaver
 February 2—Jordan Hubbard
 February 3—Cayden Borders
 February 6—Cindy Poole
 February 11—Emily Hubbard
 February—14 Mike Donovan
 February 19—Joyce DeRosset
 February 21—Dale Poole

Prayer Requests and News

Shari Dvorak is visiting her mother in Houston for several weeks while her sister attends a wedding in Asia. Jim will be joining her in a couple of weeks. Pray for a good visit and safe travel when they return home.

Charlotte Blake has had another episode with sciatica and has not been able to attend for the last couple of weeks. Pray for her as she goes to Dr. Johnson this week that the injection will help her back.

Dr. Ed Johnson is practicing part time again in Dayton after having a reoccurrence of cancer. He is currently unable to speak above a whisper. Pray that he will regain his voice.

Louise Emmott has not been doing well and needs your prayers. Pray for her physical condition and that her depression would go away. We have missed seeing Louise in church for the last several weeks.

Alice Coulter is going in for tests this week for gall bladder. She has not felt good in quite some time. Please pray that the doctor's can find the problem and treat it effectively so that she will feel better and be able to come back to church.

Roger Coulter has been working a lot of hours for H&R Block. This year is especially busy because of the closing of the tax service in Soddy Daisy, and Block has picked up a lot more customers. Roger will be working all day every day this week. Please remember him in your prayers as well.

Karen Kirby's sister, Pam, starts chemotherapy this week. Her recent surgery was very successful, and everyone is encouraged over the results. Please remember Pam and her family in the weeks ahead as she takes her treatments that the nausea and discomfort will be minimal.

Brian Evaul's veteran's benefits ran out, and he will not be able to continue his classes at Middle Tennessee State University. He will have to come home and try to find a job. Please pray for Brian that he will be able to get a job and get back on his feet again. We have enjoyed having Brian attend church whenever he has been home from school.

Kathy Shelley's neighbor, Alex, shot himself on Saturday, January 26. He is currently in intensive care at Erlanger Hospital. Please pray for his complete recovery and healing in his family as well.

Alan Thomas, grandson of Elder Addison Downey, passed away recently. He was 64.

Carey Jackson fell while going into a doctor's office three weeks ago. He broke both elbows and a bone in his left hand. He is in two casts and is unable to do almost anything. Curtis made some oak extensions for his fork and spoon, and he is now able to eat by himself and brush his teeth. He has a good attitude toward all of this. He said that at least he can work the mouse on his computer.

CC Stands for Climate Control—Curtis Coulter

Climate control...we take it for granted now, but we have to be reminded of the situation over the last 50 years to fully appreciate...climate control.

For many years the funeral homes in the area gave out folding fans to the churches to keep in the pews during the summer. These were for people to fan themselves during services. Until the late 1950's the church was not air conditioned. During the summer months when the air was very hot, people sat in the pews and fanned themselves. Many of the ladies brought their own. Stores in the area carried the folding kind that fanned out to almost 180 degrees. Then they folded up completely so they could be carried in a purse.

At that time Tom Shipley lived two doors up Griffith Street from the church, and he had a chicken house with over 1000 chickens in it. Couple the heat with some of the smells, and the environment was less than optimal to say the least.

The only way to circulate air was to open the big windows on both sides of the sanctuary and just pray that a nice breeze would come along or that a wandering hound dog did not set up a long, lugubrious howl right outside the window...which has happened.

As air conditioning began to come on the national scene, thought began to be made toward the idea of air conditioning the sanctuary. A couple of large window fans were installed to pull outside air into the building and to blow the inside air outside.

Around 1959 or 1960 two large window air conditioners were purchased for the church. Keep in mind that at this time the fellowship hall had not been constructed, so all services were held in the sanctuary. The basement was always fairly cool

and, therefore, consideration was not given to doing anything down there.

In 1962 when the church bought the large lot next door a building committee was formed for the purpose of building the fellowship hall, pastor's office, restrooms, and two classrooms. The church was not in a real good situation financially, so construction had to progress as money became available. Mr. Roy McDonald provided the mason, plumbing, carpentry, and electrical labor for the project.

The building was completed in early June of 1967 just in time for Carey and Elaine (Coulter) Jackson's wedding in July. And guess what? Three large air conditioning/heating units in the back of the church. One of them was dedicated to the newly renovated sanctuary with a completely rebuilt choir loft, pulpit platform, refinished pews, and new chandeliers.

The other two units cooled the fellowship hall, restrooms, and new classrooms. The church got their money's worth out of those units. They were repaired many times, but they held up for over 40 years until they began to die just a few years ago. Each one has now been replaced, but we can be thankful for the way God blessed those units. Remember that the children of Israel's shoes lasted for 40 years.

In 1984 the new ladies' classroom was completed off the fellowship hall so that they did not have to climb the basement steps. A dual heating/air unit was installed in that classroom, and it has lasted for over twenty-five years; however, it, too, is due a replacement as it makes a lot of noise when it runs and is bothersome when the class meets.

CC...climate control. We are thankful for climate control.

Quilting Club Winner Patti Iles

The quilting club at Dayton to which Patti Iles and Karin Traylor belong recently had their annual quilting contest, and Patti won the blue ribbon for hers. It was made by coloring the butterflies and flowers with crayons, setting the colors with an iron, and then embroidering around the designs. Patti won Viewer's Choice. "This was the first quilt I have ever entered to be judged," she told me.

Susan Iles took this picture that was made at Garrison Baptist Church in Dayton.

Patti taught home economics when she taught at Sale Creek High School. Many girls as well as boys learned to cook and sew because of Patti. She also taught child care by making students carry an egg around for a week and making sure that it did not break while in their care. She was a very imaginative and effective teacher.

Besides Patti and Karen, Chris Coulter has also expressed interest in the club and attended a meeting or two.



More Christmas Pictures

Right: The men's quartet sang Star of Bethlehem.

Below right: Jack Traylor played Silent Night on the accordion. This performance was a real treat, and we look forward to Jack doing it again soon.

Center left: Mary Brown of the Brown family played the guitar as well as the harp.

Bottom left: Part of the excellent turnout for the Christmas program.



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January 2013 Newsletter

The annual congregational meeting was held on January 13. Elders Jim Dvorak and George Blake were re-elected to three year terms. The annual financial statement was presented and approved. God has been very good to the church financially in the past year.

On Saturday, January 6 several members gathered at the church to take down the Christmas decorations. An attempt was made to organize the decorations in boxes so that it would be easier to put them out next year without having to piece everything together from different boxes. They were stored on a high table and shelves in the old kitchen downstairs.

The church has contracted with a web designer to build the church a better website. It will be available in the near future. Currently you can visit us either on Facebook or at www.salecreekpres.com. Be watching for the new site.

Allison Coulter made the dean's list at UTC during the fall semester. Allison is zeroing in on a bachelor's degree there in legal assisting. Her hard work paid off. She is carrying an A average overall in her studies.

Ninette Cox visited June Smith recently and came to church one Sunday morning. The choir tried to enlist her help that morning, but no luck. We always enjoy having Ninnette and David visit with us.

On Sunday, January 20 Mrs. Carol Holloway from the Women's Care Center in Dayton spoke during morning worship. Carol is an annual visitor, and we are always glad to have her come and tell us about the ministry of the Women's Care Center and the progress that has been made this past year. The encouraging thing about her visit is finding out how love, concern, and God's love has transformed some lives and prevented abortions. Our church remains a strong supporter of Women's Care Center.

The occasion of Carol speaking that morning was that Phil and Melinda were in North Carolina for Phil's brother Bill's memorial service.

During Phil's absence on Sunday night that week, Alan Heald performed the evening worship service. He is an interesting speaker, and we are very happy that he and Pam worship with us on Sunday nights.

Added note about the website. Mr. Jason Walker, a professional web designer, is in the middle of creating the new Sale Creek Presbyterian website. Phil informs me that he is over halfway finished with it, and we will be able to see a sneak preview in just a few days.

For those who have been praying for Patti Brackett, please continue to do so. She is not doing well right now.