

The Rolling Roads Reminder

December 2023

Looking Over Jordan

Can you believe it's Christmas? As the world turns, so do the days of our lives. I hope you can remember happy Christmas memories of long ago; boy I sure can. If all is right, there comes a carefree feeling of rest that is very complete sometime on Christmas Eve, or Christmas Day. For me it happens somewhere near a Christmas tree. It might not last long, but it is my hope that this Christmas everyone experiences that feeling of rest in the Lord. Once it is gone, it won't be around again until next year.

There are plenty of bad feelings during the year. The apocalyptic drug company news is always on, teaching us how to fear. That's enough. They claim there are wars and existential threats, always just over the horizon. Crime and cruelty ebbs and flows, and children have to deal with the messes grown ups make. But no matter how out of control with sinning the people in this world get, Christmas still comes. Somehow, through it all, Christmas still comes.

There have been many Christmas shows about the menacing prospect of Christmas not coming. It's the cultural metaphor that "what if Santa can't come down the chimney" for some reason. When once a very

foggy Christmas Eve came, Santa couldn't leave the North Pole! But Rudolph saved Christmas, by being Santa's guide that night. Once an evil ice queen froze Santa. Once a Halloween skeleton wanted to be Santa, so he kidnapped him and locked him up. Once the Christmas spirit waned so much that Santa's sleigh couldn't even get off the ground! Who knows how many times Christmas has been saved from certain doom! At least in Hollywood.

We do want Christmas to come each year. Our optimism should never rest on material things, as necessary or nice as they may be. We like Santa, but recall that Saint Nicholas did what he did in the name of Jesus. His simple gifts reminded the people of God's greatest gift. Jesus is not a toy to unwrap, He is a Person to know.

Our hope is in Christ alone, and Jesus is the reason for the Christmas season. So don't spend too much time contemplating Santa! Instead, think of why he gave all those gifts - in celebration of God's greatest gift of all, Himself, for the Salvation of all who trust in Him.

Happy because of Jesus,

Pastor James

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S**

James Jordan 6th
Jennifer Brooks 10th
Dawn Wyrick 12th
Jeff Garrett 20th

financial report

October

Income: \$6,951

Expenses: \$7,354



Growing Towards Christ

DATES TO REMEMBER

Christmas Card delivery will be through December 24.

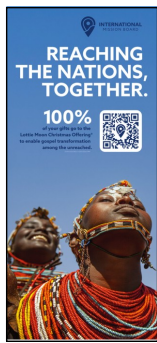
Dec 3 - Advent Begins

Dec 10 - Choir musical

Dec 24 - Communion

Dec 25 - **CHRISTMAS**

(Office closed Dec 25 & 26)



100% of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering enables gospel transformation among the unreached.

Please consider giving during the month of December to support international missions.

While bells are ringing midnight-clear,
Three gifts I ask for this New Year.

Faith is the pilgrim staff I crave
To keep me strong, to keep me brave.

Hope is the candle's pinpoint star
To lead me on the path afar.

Love is the mantle I would wear--
heartwarming garments lined
with prayer.

Father God, with these priceless three
Enrich the days Thou sendest me!

--Marie Barton

Looking forward to Christmas?

Come See....Dec 3rd how beautiful the sanctuary looks decorated for Christmas and watch the children arrange the nativity

Come Hear....Dec 10th "Glory to God in the Highest" a short musical presented by the choir

Come Experience....Dec 24th our special "Lessons and Carols" service that leads us to the manger for Communion

Come Worship each Sunday at 11:00AM