



Dr. Russell Duck, Pastor
Danny Ringer, Associate Pastor
Doc Ware, Minister of Music
Ryan Young, Minister to Youth
Ann Koonce, Director of Children's Ministries
Josefath Sanchez, Sr., Hispanic Pastor

www.fbcelkcity.com

1600 W Country Club Elk City, OK 73644 (580) 225-7951 December 18, 2008



From our Pastor

Beloved,

I shared a story in my message last Sunday that I want to repeat in my article. I do not remember where I read it, but it beautifully illustrates the truth found in John 1:14, "And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us..."

The story is told about a man who stood looking out his window on a cold, snowy Christmas Eve. His family had gone to a midnight service at the church nearby, but he had elected to remain at home. The thought of welcoming the birth of Christ had never particularly impressed him. The idea of God becoming man was to him no less than a fairy tale.

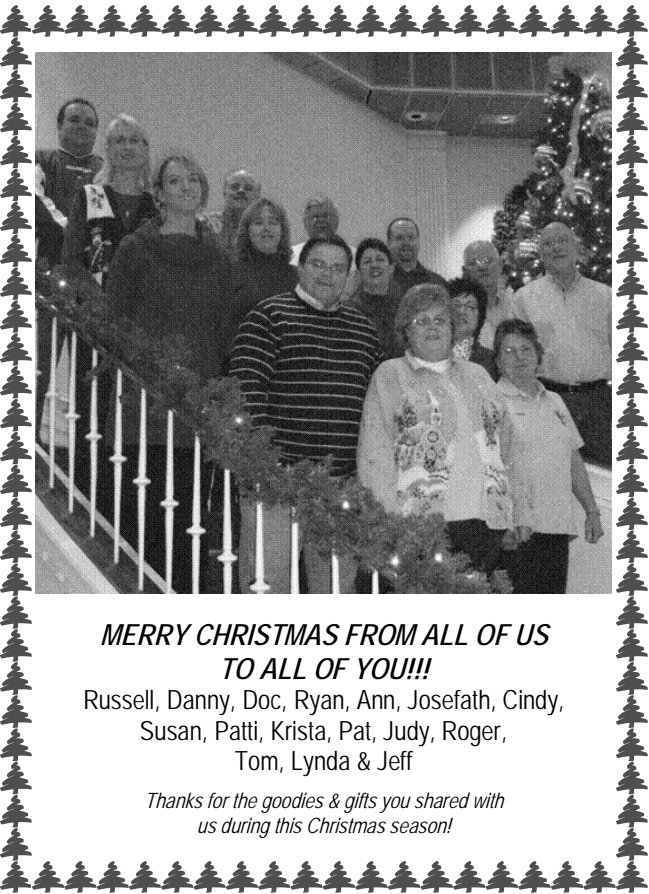
As the man watched the shadows cast by the trees on the crusty snow in his backyard, his eye caught the faint movement near the garden. Looking closer he saw a small flock of birds huddled beside the garden wall. The man had always been fond of birds and was deeply moved by their apparent helplessness. On this, the coldest night of the year, they would surely freeze without shelter, the man thought. The garage! If he opened the garage door, the birds would have shelter for the night away from the bitter cold and chilling wind.

The man opened the garage door to allow the birds entrance, but to his disappointment the birds remained in a huddled mass beside the garden wall. Food will draw them inside, he thought. So he scattered a trail of breadcrumbs from the open door to the garden wall. But the birds ignored his offerings of food and only huddled closer together in the snow. In desperation, the man tried shooing the birds toward the shelter of the garage. This effort only succeeded in scattering the birds in every direction.

Frustrated, the man began to shout, "You stupid birds! Don't you understand that I'm doing this for your own good? It's because I care about you that I'm out here in the cold trying to show you the way!" Then he added quietly, "If only I could be a bird just for a little while I could show you what you haven't been able to understand." Just then, the church bells began to ring signaling the midnight hour and the celebration of Christ's birth. As the man listened he began to reflect upon his last statement. "O God," he said, "Now I know why you became a man." Thank God, that, "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us!"

Pastor Russell

Business Meeting
Sunday, December 21
5:30 p.m.
*Note the earlier time
this month.



**MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM ALL OF US
TO ALL OF YOU!!!**

Russell, Danny, Doc, Ryan, Ann, Josefath, Cindy,
Susan, Patti, Krista, Pat, Judy, Roger,
Tom, Lynda & Jeff

*Thanks for the goodies & gifts you shared with
us during this Christmas season!*


All-Church Caroling
Sunday, December 21
6:00 pm Evening Worship
6:30 pm All-Church Caroling
All S.S. Departments encouraged to participate. We'll read the Christmas Story, sing a few Christmas carols and give a gift to each homebound member.

**WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS!!!**


By Baptism

Dariann
Hayes
1609 W.6th





Kelsey Cloud
106 Calhoon

Doc's Notes 

ALL Church "Caroling":

- HELP NEEDED** – Thursday, Dec. 18th at 1:00 p.m. We'll meet in Adult 1 [across from church office] and prepare 54 presents for our homebound ministry. As before, Sunday School departments will be assigned a route to deliver presents, read the Christmas story and sing Christmas Carols at EACH assigned home.
- CAROLING** - We will meet at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary [short time] and then dismiss to Adult 1 to pick up caroling assignments.

Live Embers Lynton Street will be our featured guest Thursday, January 8. I look forward to seeing you there and bring a friend.

Thank you, I would like to thank all our directors, teachers, accompanists, soloists and choir members for their beautiful presentation of "The Heavens are Telling" last Sunday evening. Our 2009 Music Ministry schedule begins with the following dates:

- Wednesday, Jan. 7th – Adult choir.
- Sunday, Jan. 11th:
 - Youth bells & choir – regular time.
 - Adult bells – 7:00 p.m. New members welcome!
- Wednesday, Jan. 14th :
Graded Choirs begin – regular schedule.

Doc

Extended Session:

Babies:
Sheila Sutton/Sally Coffey

1 year olds:
Shiloh & Holly Stover

2 year olds:
NEED HELP!!!


3 year olds:
Laura Barber-Jay

4 year olds:
Michael & Katy Womack



**The Lottie
Moon Post
Office is
open.**

You may "deliver"
your church family
Christmas cards here
and donate the postage
saved to our Lottie
Moon Christmas
Offering.




Weekly Report
December 14, 2008

The People Came...

Sunday School Attendance

Adults.....	297
Youth.....	70
Children.....	97
Preschool.....	71
Fellowship.....	27
Total.....	562
Hispanic Mission.....	25
Total *incl. mission.....	587
New S.S. Members.....	1
Enrollment:.....	1389

**ACTIVITIES
BUILDING
SCHEDULE** 

Gym Hours:
Dec 22 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Dec 23-25 Gym Closed.



WEEK OF PRAYER FOR
INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS AND
INTERNATIONAL MISSION STUDY
NOV. 30 - DEC. 7, 2008

**LOTTIE MOON
CHRISTMAS OFFERING***
National Goal: \$170 million
Our Goal: \$28,000

GO TELL
the story of Jesus

The People Gave...

Budget Needs.....	\$28,258.00
Received.....	\$28,635.13
Above.....	\$377.13
Building Need.....	\$3,462.00
Received.....	\$2,203.50
Below.....	\$1,258.50

And the Lord Added...

By Letter	0
By Statement	0
By Baptism	1
Professions of Faith.....	0
Year to Date	
Additions	
By Letter.....	35
By Statement.....	2
By Baptism.....	21
Total.....	58
Giving	
Budget Need.....	\$1,412,900.00
Received.....	\$1,607,663.06
Above.....	\$194,763.06
Building Need.....	\$173,100.00
Building Received...	\$222,971.89
Balance on Note	\$202,439.02

Coming Events

Dec 21	9:00 a.m. Adult 6 Christmas Breakfast, FH
	9:30 a.m. Sunday School
	10:45 a.m. Morning Worship
	3:00 p.m. Elkwood
	4:00 p.m. ESL
	4:30 p.m. <i>Disciple's Prayerlife</i>
	5:30 p.m. Business Meeting
	6:00 p.m. Evening Worship
	6:30 p.m. All-Church Caroling
Dec 23	6:45 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
	Noon-6:00 p.m. OBI Blood Drive, FBC Gymnasium
Dec 24	Noon Church Office Closes
	No Wednesday Activities or Services.
Dec 25	MERRY CHRISTMAS!!! Church office closed Dec 25-26.

**NO MESSENGER
WILL BE PRINTED
DECEMBER 25TH.
It will return
January 1, 2008.**

