

# PAYNESVILLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH EPISTLE

“Therefore, Brethren, hold steadfast the tradition which you were taught, by word and our Epistle.” II Thess. 2:13  
December, 2009 Vol. XXXIII Nov. 6

MERRY CHRISTMAS, MMIX A.D. ~ anno domino = year of our Lord.



## The Legend of the Candy Cane

A humble candy maker in Indiana wished to use his candy making art to make a Christmas gift for Christ that came straight from his heart.

He incorporated several symbols for the birth, ministry, and death of Jesus Christ.

First he began with a stick of pure white, hard candy. White to symbolize the virgin birth and sinless nature of Jesus. Hard candy to symbolize the solid rock, the foundation of the church and firmness of the promises of God.

The Candy maker made the candy in the form of a “J” to stand for the name of Jesus who was born on Christmas Day. The white stripes symbolized Jesus’ virgin birth and His sinlessness and purity during his time on earth. It also represented the staff of the “Good Shepherd”.

The candy maker then included red stripes to represent the scourging and the blood that Jesus shed and the suffering Christ endured at the end of his life. The humble Candymaker had created the Candy Cane – a decoration seen at Christmas time to remind us during this season that Christmas is a sweet gift of love – Jesus is the reason.

The meaning has faded, but still gives joy to children young and old, whom Jesus loves and treasures.

“But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ’s gift.” NIV Ephesians 4:7

Submitted by Joyce and Kenny Lanham.

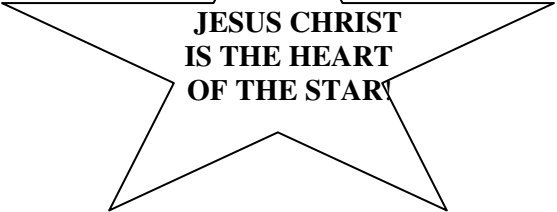
WE, THE CONGREGATION, WISH JOE, VELMA, AND JOSH A BLESSED AND MERRY CHRISTMAS.  
THANKS FOR YOUR MINISTRIES.

## HISTORY:

A sunny Christmas: The first Christmas celebration in what’s now the United States took place in 1539 near today’s city of Tallahassee: Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto and his company of some 600 conquistadors and 12 Catholic priests held a strictly religious observance. (according to National Geographic)

Puritanism: When Dec. 25 rolled around in the colonial 1600 and 1700’s most Long Islanders did what they normally did each day. Women cooked and washed clothes. Men worked in barns or in the fields if the weather permitted preparing the land for next year’s crop. People did not walk around in the woods singing Christmas carols. The Puritan thought these things very severe. There is rarely a mention of Christmas in diaries, letters or official documents. Christmas celebrations were actually declared illegal from 1659 to 1681 in New England, the hotbed of Puritanism, noted in a recent history book. If anyone was caught observing Christmas by drinking, partying or song, were fined a mighty hefty five shillings.

The very first Christmas was observed by following the Bethlehem Star. “You will find a babe wrapped in cloths, lying in a manger... Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom He is pleased.” Luke 2:12, 14.



**JESUS CHRIST  
IS THE HEART  
OF THE STAR**

## MOVIN' ON

A new computer has been ordered. The sanctuary was decorated on December 4, with multiple helpers. Annually the sanctuary is very spiritually festive and many of the decorations are the contributions of Jonita Hardy. We thank her for that effort. For the night Candlelight Service there are illuminated candles on the steps. Specials are needed for this service.

### **SECULAR GIFTS-SPIRITUAL GIFTS:** Taken From Daily Bible Devotions.

“During a Sunday worship service, a congregation said this prayer of confession in unison: ‘Gracious God, like many believers before us, we complain when things do not go our way. We want abundance of everything rather than what is sufficient to sustain us. We would rather be elsewhere than where we are at the moment. We would rather have the gifts YOU give to others than what YOU give us than serve YOU. Forgive our lack of gratitude for what YOU give.’”

Which gifts do you treasure? From God or from the shelf?

**MISSION- LOVE DONATION FOR CHRISTMAS~** Mark Layman's, Global Witness will be the recipient of this year's giving. Yellow stars will be placed on the Christmas tree by the youth. The stars will represent \$5.00. Let's fill the tree. Decide to give up something which you don't need but like: soda pop, cappuccino, candy, desserts, etc. Give that money to the donation.

**GIFT OF GIVING:** Traditionally the congregation gives a gift of groceries to a family in the community. This year, two families from the Angel Tree program have been selected. Members will be selecting a family or members of a family who have made requests. Food items are also needed. If you prefer not to shop but wish to help, you may give your financial donation to a leader.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO:** Michelle & Donnie Sandlin on their 20 years of marriage.

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Paynesville Christian Church  
% Jonita Hardy  
7579 S 850 W  
Lexington, In 47138  
Bro. Joe McKay, Minister

## FROM THE CORNERSTONE:

From New Washington Courier:

December 11, 1908 Brother Lawson will begin a series of meetings at the Christian Church December 14<sup>th</sup>. On the Dedication Day, December 20, services will be conducted by Rev T J Legg. Bro Pierson of Louisville will have charge of the song service. All are to come and bring well filled baskets. A table will be spread in the Payneville Hall. There will probably be four or five ministers present and a big time is expected.

A follow up in Christian Standard, submitted by Mrs. B. W. Noell. Printed in January, 1909.

“On the night of December 14, 1908, J T Lawson of Madison began a week of services. He was greeted every night by an audience that filled the house. On Saturday night, T J Legg preached. Money is now raised to pay a preacher for one year. W O S Cliffe\*will begin a series of meetings with us in February.” \*held the original founding services in 1907.

### **“CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS”**

Christmas blessings are many  
A welcoming smile at the door  
Loved ones gathered around us  
Gifts of love and much more.

Let's count the blessings of Christmas  
Thanking our God for each one  
And praising Jesus, our Saviour  
For the wonderful things  
He has done.

### **HOME**

As we prepare our home for Christmas and the celebration of Christ's birth, we must also prepare our heart by choosing these attributes. Seek a friend from the past. Dismiss suspicion and replace it with trust. Encourage youth. Try to understand. Keep a promise. Laugh a little. Express your gratitude. Gladden the heart of a child. Go to church. Give a soft answer. Be kind. Decry complacency.

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Service Change Requested