
JANUARY MUSTARD SEED

January 2015

CHRISTMAS RECITAL

WELCOMED THE HOLIDAY SEASON
SUE BELLOTTI
MUSIC DIRECTOR

December 7th, the community came together to participate in and enjoy the presentations prepared to celebrate the Christmas season. Special thanks to Lloyd for his readings “I Drink From My Saucer Cause My Cup Runs Over “ and the special rendition found by Sylvia Spangler from over 40 years ago, concerning a Grandfather who found a way to turn off the television and the stereo’s in an effort to bring the family together for some very special family celebrations of how Christmas used to be. I believe we all strive to go back to the happiest times we remember growing up and they didn’t involve electronics.

Thanks to the Crystal Crackers for their songs, especially the Christmas Alleluia. Singing the traditional carols brought smiles to everyone.

Piano pieces were played and Dustin King has not only grown several inches in height from last Christmas he has gained so much as a pianist. Thanks for playing for us, Dustin.



CHILDREN’S PROGRAM

Sunday School presented Christmas song and Sunday School Songs
Sue Bellotti
Christian Ed Director

The Sunday School students had been practicing “Birthday of a King”, to present to the church on December 21st. It was a snowy Sunday so there were several members of the congregation stuck at home. We will perform again after Christmas.



As the New Year begins we will be studying the New Testament as we prepare for the Easter season and celebrate God’s love for us through his Son. See you there.

VBS FUNDRAISER IN THE PLANNING

In March 2015, we will hold a fundraiser to support VBS and Sunday School programs for the year. Watch for more information

Doris Achenbach, the usual editor of the Mustard Seed, has been in the hospital for several days so I will do my best to be sure we have a year-end edition. She has been transferred to Palisade Care Center for a stay to regain her strength to return home. Please stop and visit her, if you can.

Doris, Get Well Soon!

Annual Meeting January 25, 2015 1pm.

The Annual meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, January 25, 2015, following a pot luck dinner after church. If you have served as an officer or as Steward or Trustee please prepare the report for Annual Report. It will be necessary for the reports to be assembled the week prior to the meeting so deliver your report to Cindy Price by January 19th.

Please plan on attending. A quorum is needed to take care of church business. Meat will be provided by the church for the pot luck. Please bring side dishes.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

The annual Christmas Eve service was held December 24, 2014 at 7PM. The quiet church, Christmas message, and carols brought, to each of those in attendance, a feeling of the quiet peace that comes from celebrating the special meaning of Christmas with friends and family. Jerry Hamm, accompanied the congregation with the final song, Silent Night.. The candles flickered and the soft, sweet words of this old hymn made for a beautiful ending to the evening and brought us into the new beginning that comes with Christmas.

REFLECTIONS

What Were They Thinking?

Sandy Eastman, Montrose Hillcrest UCC
Rocky Mountain Conference 12/21/14

As Christmas approaches, what are you thinking? Are you concerned because your decorating isn't finished, your cards still need to be addressed and mailed, packages are waiting to be wrapped, gifts still need to be purchased, and the list goes on and on. Have you taken time out to give any thought to the real reason for the season? Have you given any thought to the true meaning of Christmas?

While reading my bible this morning, I got to thinking about those days, some two thousand years ago and the impact that baby boy born in the manger in Bethlehem had on the world. At that time, most of the world was thinking about Rome and of Caesar, all except God. His thoughts were on the manger scene taking place there in Bethlehem.

What were Mary's thoughts, as she lay shivering on a bed of hay in a drafty stable given birth to a son? Did she question why there was no room for them in the Inn? Did she begrudge the people who were inside all warm and cozy? I doubt that she felt anything other than radiant love for this child who would be called Jesus.

And what about Joseph? He must have been thinking about how unfair it was that they had traveled so far and couldn't even find a warm place to spend the night where they would be out of the cold. They needed a clean place where Mary could give birth to the baby she carried. Joseph had to be worried about how things would go during the birth in that shabby stable shared with cows and other animals. Would there be more problems for them to deal with? Do you think he might have even, at one point, asked, "Why me, Lord?"

What about the shepherds out in the hills watching over their flocks. What were they thinking when the angel visited and gave them the news about the birth of baby Jesus? Were they baffled as well as afraid? Did they ask each other why the angels had come to them? After all, they were only lowly shepherds who eked out a meager existence herding sheep. Why had they been chosen to be recipients of this great news?

And what about the Magi, the three wise men who traveled from the East? Were they perplexed about why they were even making the trip? What did they expect to find when they reached their destination? How did they know to come bearing gifts and how did they decide what each gift should be?

People today still question facts about Jesus and some still do not believe the birth ever actually came to pass, and certainly not in the way the story has been told for hundreds of years. I hope this has given you cause to stop for a few minutes and give some thought to the real reason for the season. And while you're pondering, give Jesus thanks and praise for HE is our strength and redeemer. HE IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON.

**ANNUAL MEETING
JANUARY 25, 2015
POTLUCK DINNER FOLLOWING
CHURCH
MEETING TO FOLLOW
PLEASE PLAN ON ATTENDING**

**COLLBRAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC
P.O. BOX 160
COLLBRAN, CO
81624**

JANUARY 2015