

# Faith Report

## Rejoicing in Immanuel, God With Us by Stan Long

*For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given... Is. 9:6*

The big bird has been cooked, prayed over and consumed. The dinner guests have departed. A few wings and lots of dark meat have been put aside for leftovers and/or stuffed into the freezer for later consumption. The pies, the corn, the sweet potatoes, the gravy and the stuffing are all wonderful olfactory memories of a long, joyful day. As you rest for the evening you become aware of two realities: your favorite radio station is now playing 24 hours of holiday tunes and your favorite stores are opening early in the morning because Black Friday is upon us. That phrase "Black Friday" always startles and intrigues you for about five seconds until you remember that it has its origins in the world of accounting ledgers.

So you come round and prepare yourself for the commercial onslaught of a culture that wants to wish you a Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanza, Happy Hanukkah, chestnuts on an open fire, tells you to dream of a White Christmas and make sure that you are nice instead of naughty. Yes, the holiday season that so swiftly comes upon us traditionally brings promises of joy, glory and peace on earth. But realistically, in about a minute and

a half, you easily forget that Christmas is really about those simple but profound words of the prophet Isaiah:

*For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given... Is. 9:6*



The world around us celebrates the season. But does the world really understand it? How should those who have experienced peace on earth through the salvation of the Prince of Peace respond to a world that intermingles the birth of Jesus with so much other clutter? Should we totally ignore it as some pagans do? Should we celebrate it and go overboard as so many do who have only a horizontal focus, and not a vertical relationship with God? I mean, really it's all about the gift giving, isn't it? Well...no. As believers who want to seriously follow the Lord Jesus Christ, we need to sanctify this holiday season by infusing fresh meaning into the message that is perceived by so many people as stale, outmoded and irrelevant.

It isn't just a Son that was born. It is about a Son who was given! It is about Immanuel, God With Us,

God's gift of Jesus, the one who was to be the Savior of the world! And so now "man (and women and boys and girls) shall live forevermore because of Christmas Day."

**The child, the Son "shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace".**

**Is. 9:6**

Let us sanctify this 2010 holiday season by going and telling on the mountains, hills and everywhere that Jesus Christ has been born so that we might be born again and experience in a fresh way the peace that passes all understanding which only the King of kings can offer. ♦



### CALENDAR

- Dec 3** Concert of Prayer
- Dec 5** Advent Concert 6 p.m. and Bazaar 4:30 p.m.
- Dec 8** NO Faith Leadership Night
- Dec 24** Office closed
- Dec 24** Christmas Eve service 7 p.m.
- Dec 26** One service only at 11:00 a.m.
- Dec 31** Office closed

### Heads Up:

- Jan 30** Next Welcome Lunch



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*United that the  
world would  
know*

*27 All the ends of the  
earth  
will remember and  
turn to the LORD,  
and all the families of  
the nations  
will bow down before  
him,  
Psalm 22:27*

## Introducing Elisa Campbell



We welcome Elisa Campbell as the new Administrative Assistant in the church office.

Elisa grew up in Denver, Colorado and has one older sister. Elisa and her family attended an evangelical

Presbyterian church but her first real understanding of what Christ did for her was on a middle school trip. A number of subsequent experiences also helped shape her faith and she is grateful for several mentors and role models along the way who encouraged her to grow in her faith.

Elise attended the University of Colorado at Boulder where she majored in voice. She is a soprano and particularly loves to sing in musicals, her favorite being *Les Miserables*. After graduating, she worked in the Education Department of Opera Colorado reaching out to schools and making the arts available to underprivileged youth. Elisa met her husband, Stephen, while they were at Boulder and they were married in June of this year. After the wedding, she moved to Baltimore, where Stephen is pursuing a Masters in voice at the Peabody Conservatory.

Elisa has been very active musically and says that she has had only about three weeks off from musical productions in the last two and a half years. She is still exploring the Baltimore music theater scene but has taken advantage of time off from her musical pursuits to enjoy marriage and adjust to living away from Colorado.

Elisa played lacrosse and basketball in high school, plays guitar and loves to cook in her spare time. **Welcome to Faith, Elisa and Stephen!** ♦

## Health Fair/Buck a Bag Store

Over a hundred people came to this event on November 20. Most were from the Pen Lucy community and learned about the event from fliers and word of mouth. People had flu shots, blood pressure taken, blood sugar level tested, and obtained information about health care and clinics for the uninsured. There was a special event for children where they played games and learned about healthy lifestyles. Also, for the cost of one dollar, people could put together a bag full of groceries to take home.

Thanks to Vernetta Abrahams, Holly Dahlman, Katrina Hein and Laura Samuel who coordinated the event, plus about 90 volunteers who sorted out logistics, planning, contributed ideas and help, made flyers and phone calls, bought food, organized donations, prayed, set up and cleaned up! BCS student art also directed people to the various stations.

The responses from people who came to the event were incredibly positive and enthusiastic. There were many requests to have this event on a regular basis, and to continue to foster the relationships that have been started between the church and community. Thanks to everyone who made it possible and to the covenant groups and others at FCF who donated food. ♦



## Bits and Pieces

Congratulations to

- Zac and Trina Coleman, Brian and Donna Float, and Hannah Friedman who were received into church membership in November.