

December 18, 2011

INTOUCH

To Us A Child Is Born!

*For to us a child is born,
to us a Son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.*

Isaiah 9:6

It has been our privilege and blessing these three Advent Sundays to dig more deeply into the significance of this Child of Christmas, to consider three aspects of the Baby of whom the prophet Isaiah speaks: his promise, his peril, and his peace. By God's grace and mercy, we'll have been touched by the profound significance of this Child whose birth we celebrate – some for the first time . . . some in a way never experienced before . . . his touch is life-changing!

With this in mind, we look forward to next weekend when we'll join with millions of others around this world who will celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the Child of Christmas, at services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

On Saturday, December 24th, the family of Camelback Bible Church – along with extended family and friends, invited guests, and many from our community – will gather for what has become a longstanding and beloved tradition at Camelback Bible Church: our Christmas Eve Service of **A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols**, being offered again this year at both 4:00 and 6:00 PM.

Our sanctuary will be filled with the familiar sights and sounds of Christmas at Camelback. The votives will be lit, the Advent wreath will await the lighting of the Christ candle, and the organ will be playing as we gather. The atmosphere is hushed; the time is at hand....

We'll begin our worship as we have for over 30 years with the beautiful processional carol, "Once in Royal David's City." Beginning with the singular beauty of a young boy's voice singing the first verse, the entire choir will sing the second verse and the congregation will join in the singing of the remaining verses.

The service then moves forward, alternating between Scripture readings and carols that reflect the unfolding of God's great purpose of salvation through the coming of His Son Jesus Christ – born a babe in Bethlehem. With the unfolding of His purpose comes greater and greater joy, culminating in the traditional carol sung at our departing, "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing." Offering their gifts of music will be our Sanctuary Choir, organist Dr. Guy Whatley, a brass quintet, bells and percussion. Offering their voices in the reading of God's word will be members of our church family, representing a spectrum of ages.

We also are excited about our special Christmas morning church service on Sunday at 10:00 AM. Do not miss the rare opportunity to worship God in a Sunday service on Christmas Day. Bring your entire family to a shorter, relaxed **Family Celebration** in the sanctuary. There will be plenty of singing of our favorite carols and a homily by Pastor Savage designed with all of us in mind, including our children who will be with us. (Remember: there will be no children's classes or nursery)

THE WEEK AHEAD

SUNDAY – DECEMBER 18

12:30 PM Nursing Home Ministry meet in Fellowship Hall
 2:00 PM Nursing Home Ministry serve at Osborn Health & Rehab.
 5:00 PM DESERT BELLS CHRISTMAS CONCERT Sanctuary
A JOYOUS CHRISTMAS!
 Tickets available at the door
 6:00 PM SUNDAY EVENING PRAYER Library (205)
 6:45 PM EXCEL Junior High & High School The Hamann's home
Christmas Party
 (3310 East Palo Verde Drive, Paradise Valley AZ 85253)

MONDAY – DECEMBER 19

7:00 AM Teleios: Women's Prayer & Bible Study Library (205)
 9:00 AM Women's Aerobics – "Kick Boxing" Fellowship Hall
 7:00 PM Community Bible Study Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY – DECEMBER 21

9:00 AM Women's Aerobics – "That's A Stretch" Fellowship Hall
 5:30 PM Sanctuary Bells Sanctuary
 6:30 PM Sanctuary Choir Choir Rehearsal Room

THURSDAY – DECEMBER 22

9:00 AM Women's Aerobics – "Cirque Du Soleil" Fellowship Hall

FRIDAY – DECEMBER 23

9:00 AM Women's Aerobics – "Dance It Off" Fellowship Hall

SATURDAY – DECEMBER 24

10:30 AM - Messianic Bible Studies 209

Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 24, 2011
 4:00 and 6:00 PM

Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols

Traditional Candlelight Service

with

Sanctuary Choir – Brass – Bells – Percussionist
 Scripture Readers – Congregational Singing

Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25, 2011
 10:00 AM

A Church Family Christmas

A unique Camelback gathering

Together with our children, an hour of
 praising God for the incomparable gift of his Son,
 singing carols, offering prayer, and enjoying fellowship

homily by Pastor Tim from God's word

There will be no children's classes or nursery
 All children welcome!

DESERT BELLS HANDBELL CONCERT
A JOYOUS CHRISTMAS!

A tradition at CBC in recent years, our gifted Bell Director, Kay Cook, brings her two community groups together for a Christmas Concert for the public. They will present the concert three times, each time filled with: "Ringing and singing, strings and flutes, drums and chimes for a joyful celebration in instrument and songs." This concert is a delight for all ages. Do plan to come and bring along friends, family and neighbors.

Today, December 18 — 5:00 PM

The Camelback family is invited at no cost

Guest tickets are: \$15, with Seniors (62+) \$12, and Children \$10 and may be purchased at the door

NOTE THE FOLLOWING CHRISTMAS BREAKS (These will not be held):

Sunday Children's Classes (9:00 AM and 11:00 AM) through January 1st
LOGOS Kids Club, December 21 and 28 (resumes Wednesday, January 4th)
EXCEL Student Ministry, December 21, 25, 28 and January 1st

2012 GIVING ENVELOPES are available in the Narthex for our personal convenience and to save the cost of mailing the envelopes. They will be out this Sunday only. If you have not used envelopes previously, you will be able to sign out a set in the narthex. The use of these envelopes benefits everyone. IDEALLY, ALL THE ENVELOPES WILL BE PICKED UP, YOURS INCLUDED!

TELEIOS WINTER-SPRING SESSION SIGN-UPS ARE HERE! Yes, another Teleios session is just around the corner. Classes begin mid-January. We're all encouraged to stop by the Teleios sign-up booth located within the new enlarged narthex, take a look at the great classes being offered this next session, and ask God how he would have us take part. Go to www.cbcaz.org/adult/teleios for a full listing of classes with descriptions. There is something for everyone! Flyers and registration are available at the Teleios Booth following each worship service or call the church office during regular office hours, 9:00am – 4:00 pm. Let's all plan to come TOGETHER and grow TOGETHER in the new year!

YEAR-END REMINDER: As we approach the end of the year, we are reminded of the opportunity to support either a child we know who attends a Christian school or support the students of the Christian school of our choice through the ACSTO (Arizona Christian School Tuition Organization, Inc.). By contributing to ACSTO (indicating the child and/or school we wish to support), we receive a dollar-for-dollar tax credit on our Arizona State Income Tax, up to \$1,000 for a married couple and up to \$500 for singles. ACSTO was incorporated in 1998 for the sole purpose of implementing the private school tax credit law passed and signed into law in 1997 as A.R.S. Section 43-1089. ACSTO is a tax exempt charitable organization pursuant to federal tax law, Section 501 (c) (3). Since its inception, ACSTO has awarded more than \$45 million to help children pay their Christian school tuition. Statewide more than 100 Christian schools work with ACSTO – our Camelback Christian School being one of them. Contact ACSTO at 480-820-0403 or www.acsto.com.

Unassociated with ACSTO, an additional tax credit of \$400 for a married couple and \$200 for a single is available for a contribution to the public school of your choice – Camelback High School would qualify in this category. Pastor James ("Hox") has provided more information on this on The City. He has listed some possibilities and others have been added. Do check it out.

PLEASE NOTE: The office will be closed this coming Friday, December 23rd, and also on Monday, December 26th. Tuesday through Friday, December 27-30th, the office hours will be 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

OUR S.A.I.N.T.S. ALIVE! MINISTRY (A very robust group of "senior servants") invites us to join them for their next Saturday Morning Coffee where a light brunch will be served and time with one of God's servants who is in our midst is featured. Plan to come on January 7th, 10:30 AM in the Library (205) when our own Bob Moffitt, Harvest Foundation president and co-founder of the Disciple Nations Alliance will be our guest. His ministry, through Harvest and DNA, covers the world. His stories of God at work in nations near and far are many and fascinating.

**OUR YOUNGEST GUESTS AT CHRISTMAS . . .
THEIR CARE IS SO IMPORTANT! . . .
DON'T YOU AGREE?**

Many from the community around us, as well as the Camelback family, attend our much-loved Christmas Eve Services of *A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols*. And with them come their children! It is our privilege and blessing to care for these little ones while their families join us in worship. For their parents, it is a vital part of their experience, especially for our visitors who need to feel secure about leaving their children. Since we have two services, 4:00 and 6:00 PM, we can serve these children and their parents during one of the services and still attend the other. No one needs to miss out! Consider signing up as a family or small group . . . singles and couples too. Please contact Carmen Benford, ASAP (IT'S IMPORTANT!) at 480-8313-5059 or cbenford4@cox.net and let her know which service time is preferred. (Eleven folks are needed for each service and we're not yet close to having the needed number.) Please consider this a gift you can give and call Carmen right away! THANK YOU!

AGAIN THIS YEAR, AFTER BOTH OUR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES, we will have cookies and drinks available, but this year we are delighted to serve them in our new, spacious narthex rather than on the patio. This will allow us to fellowship together and warmly welcome our visitors into our church home. To do this we need cookies – lots of them (homemade or store-bought) and people who are available to help set up prior to the 4:00 PM service, watch and re-supply for the 6:00 PM service, and clean up after the 6:00 PM service. If you are able to help with cookies and/or help with the other aspects, please call the church office at 602-955-6370. Questions? Contact Jeanne Bookhout at 602-386-7765 or jbookhout@camelbackbible.org. And thank you for helping make this wonderful celebration even more wonderful!

A TREASURE TROVE HAS BEEN FOUND! We've discovered a box of the *Fellowship Favorites* Camelback Bible Church Cookbook that was produced in 2004. They are available in the office for a mere \$5 a piece with the proceeds going to our church benevolent fund. These would make great Christmas and/or hostess gifts!

S.A.I.N.T.S. ALIVE! (the 55 and over ministry within our church family) is sponsoring an outing to Organ Stop Pizza (1149 East Southern Ave., Mesa AZ) on Saturday, January 14, 2012. If you want to attend you should plan on arriving about 1:00 PM. The doors will open for our group at 1:15 PM with a special concert just for us (and another senior adult group from another local church) beginning at 1:30 PM. For those who want to share a ride, there will be some carpools leaving from our church at 12:00 PM. The cost for the event will be \$10.00 a person and will include a salad and all you can eat pizza and drinks (tea, sodas, coffee). Sign-ups (and money collection) will be held January 1st and 8th. Please feel free to invite a friend to enjoy Christian Fellowship with the family of God and make some good memories to start the New Year. Questions? Feel free to call Jim & Susan Hawthorne at 480-661-7568 or email them at jrhomeoffice@cox.net.

ALL JUNIOR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS! SAVE THE DATE! Our Winter Retreat is scheduled for February 17-20, 2012. Mark your calendars now! Our theme is *BORN IDENTITY* and we have the distinct pleasure of having Jason Fischer, High School Pastor for Scottsdale Bible Church, along with us to help us discover the surpassing identity we have in Christ. Sign up by January 22nd at www.cbcaz.org/excel.

CBC YEAR-END FINANCIAL UPDATE

Financial Giving Goal for 4th Quarter:

\$825,000.00

Fourth Quarter (Oct.-Dec.) Gifts Received to Date:

\$284,433.00

Last Week's Giving:

\$42,947.00

Gifts Needed to Finish the Year with Ministries Funded:

\$540,567.00