

## AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

- Week of November 24, 2024 -

Sunday School	18
Sunday Morning Service	45
Sunday Evening Service	13
Wednesday Evening Service	11

## AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

- Week of November 24, 2024 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings	\$ 682.43
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund	\$ 150.20
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 11/24/24:</b>	<b>\$ 832.63</b>

- Week of November 17, 2024 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings	\$ 2,290.72
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 11/17/24:</b>	<b>\$ 2,290.72</b>

- Week of November 10, 2024 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings	\$ 1,423.38
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 11/10/24:</b>	<b>\$ 1,423.38</b>

- Week of November 3, 2024 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings	\$ 1,725.51
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund	\$ 150.20
Missionary Offering, Children's SS Class	\$ 2.52
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 11/03/24:</b>	<b>\$ 1,878.23</b>

- Week of October 27, 2024 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings	\$ 1,129.09
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund	\$ 150.20
Love Offering, Dr. Phil Stringer	\$ 1,603.00
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 10/27/24:</b>	<b>\$ 2,882.29</b>

Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed for church operating expenses EACH WEEK, as a minimum = \$ 1,600.00



### What Is Your Spiritual Temperature?

I know thy works,  
that thou art neither cold nor hot:  
I would thou wert cold or hot.  
So then because thou art lukewarm,  
and neither cold nor hot,  
I will spue thee out of my mouth.

~Revelation 3:15-16~

## WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

1. Admit that you are a sinner.
2. Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.
3. Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.
4. You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).
5. By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, Who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.

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### SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES:

#### Sundays -

- 9:45 a.m. ----- Sunday School
- 10:50 a.m. ----- Morning Service
- 6:30 p.m. ----- Evening Service

#### Wednesdays -

- 7:00 p.m. ----- Evening Service

#### Bi-Monthly -

- 11:00 a.m. or 5:30 p.m. ----- Ladies Bible Study  
 - 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month

## Church Directory

Todd W. White	Pastor
Debra Carlton, Mickie Shatwell, Lois Mae Floyd	Pianists
Derek Quinnelly	Greeter
Kim Phillips; Shirley White/LeAnna White; Berdena Bergman/Debra Carlton; Daniel Avery/GiGi Avery; & Keith Shufelt	Teachers
Larry & Mary Byars	Outreach
Keith Shufelt	Men's Prayer Group
GinaMarie Shufelt	Ladies Bible Study/Flowers
Seth White	Sound/Video
Larry Byars, Derek Quinnelly, David Smith	Trustees

# REMINDER



## What About Santa Claus?

Every year, many sincere Christians ask their pastors,

*“What’s wrong with telling your kids that Santa Claus is real?”*

Once I was asked this question by a member of a church I pastored at the time. After a lengthy discussion, I didn’t get very far. It seems that I could not get across to this person that it is not acceptable to lie to our children for any reason. Nor could I make clear the plain truth that, later in life, Satan could easily deceive a child by using the fact that his parents lied to him about Santa Claus to make him doubt whether or not they lied to him about Jesus Christ.

Though well meaning, I am certain that our sweet member left feeling that I was some sort of an extremist nut. I left that conversation feeling as though I had failed to communicate effectively the need to keep the real reason we celebrate Christmas - to commemorate Christ’s birth - in the forefront of the holiday season.

A few days later, I came across this little article by the late Dr. Bill Rice. It is reprinted here by permission for your edification. Perhaps Dr. Bill will do a better job of presenting these truths than did I.

### *Should Children Be Taught About Santa Claus, Easter Bunnies and Good Fairies?*

**Q:** *I have a problem that in recent days has caused me to question my stand.*

*I was raised in a Christian home and have been saved for several years. My husband is an unsaved church member and doesn’t take a stand for or against anything.*

*I have never taught our children to believe Santa Claus brings Christmas presents or that good fairies leave money for teeth. To me, Christmas is the start of a home in Heaven. I could not believe Christ died if I did not believe He was born. I have received lots of laughs and criticism for this belief. I never paid it any thought until our music director, a student of a great Bible college, laughed and told me how silly I was not to tell my children about Santa Claus, etc.*

*How do you feel? How did you teach your family when they were growing up? Can I teach my children to love and serve God if I also teach them things that I must tell lots of lies about?*

**A:** My good friend, you are another who is going to cause me a lot of trouble! When I answer this, I’m going to get letters from irate preachers, angry parents, and outraged businessmen. If ever in my life I have wished I were a man of tact, I wish it now. But I do not know any honest way to answer your letter that will also sound kind and make everyone love me.

So - you ask a plain question, and you deserve a plain answer, and here it is -

Any Christian who teaches little children the fable that there is a Santa Claus is, at best, incredibly thoughtless and shallow.

*(continued inside)*

How blind one must be not to realize that the Christian who tells children about Santa Claus is bypassing the Gospel of Christ that brings salvation just as much as a modernist (liberal) who teaches that the Bible story is not true.

Surely nothing could please Satan more than for Christians to talk about Santa Claus, Easter bunnies, and good fairies rather than about Jesus Christ.

## ***The Devil Wanted A Detour***

Satan tried to keep Jesus from going to the cross in the first place. On the Mount of Temptation, Satan offered Christ the kingdoms of the world without a crucifixion. In the Garden of Gethsemane, I believe Satan tried to kill Jesus and thus prevent His going to the cross. When Simon Peter insisted that Jesus should not die, the Saviour significantly said, **“Get thee behind me, Satan.”**

The idea that Jesus should not die on the cross for sinners was clearly of the Devil.

## ***Substituting Something Good for the Gospel***

Today, Satan wants to substitute something else for the Gospel of Christ.

Perhaps the most beautiful story ever told is the true story of how Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary in the little town of Bethlehem. Angels sang to the shepherds to announce the Saviour’s birth. Surely there is no more beautiful story in all the world than this. Christmas is the day set aside by Christians to



commemorate this great event.

But, little by little, the fictitious story of Santa Claus has become a tradition. In many places it has been substituted for the true story of the birth of Christ. In almost all places, it is at least on an equal with the story of Jesus. One may walk down the streets of a great city at Christmastime and hear “Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer” sung in the same collection with “O Little Town of Bethlehem.”

Many Christian parents tell their children the Santa Claus fable because it is a cute story and an entertaining one. Many do not dream that they are actually aiding the Devil by substituting a lie for the truth. Parents tell the Santa Claus fable lightheartedly while telling themselves that Junior will soon realize that it is not a true story, and when he is older he will understand that the Santa Claus

fable was just a beautifully-told tale and not the truth.

So, what harm is done? A great deal. ***Every time the Santa Claus story is told - the true story of Jesus is NOT told!*** And the emphasis is on Santa Claus rather than on Christ.

After all, how many times have you ever heard someone ask a little child, “What will you be given for Christmas in Jesus’ name?” Actually, I doubt if I have ever heard that question in all my life! But I have heard, “What is Santa Claus going to bring you for Christmas?”

There certainly no honor to Jesus Christ in that!

I certainly do not object to the giving of gifts to loved ones at Christmastime. I love Christmas and think it is fitting and right for us to give gifts to our loved ones in the spirit of Christ who gave Himself for us; but I am dead set against telling little children that gifts come from Santa Claus when the Bible says, **“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights . . .”** (*James 1:17*).

## ***What About Easter?***

Easter is a day on which Christians commemorate the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The imprtance of His resurrection is absolutely impossible to overestimate or over-realize. Paul wrote in ***I Corinthians 15:16-19***:

**“For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.”**

How foolish, then, for any Christian to add silly stories of the Easter Bunny laying eggs right along with the true and vitally important story of Jesus being raised from the dead! Easter ought not to be a time when the primary thoughts of any Christian have to do with Easter eggs, colored chicks, baby ducks, little rabbits or new clothes. Even though the stories may be cute and the clothes attractive, we are shallow to allow ourselves to be duped by Satan to share the Gospel story with these things.

## ***Any Substitute Suits Satan***

Just about anything that is used as a substitute for the Gospel is satisfactory to Satan.

It must be a matter of great satisfaction to Satan that many orthodox churches have become so engrossed with satined-glass windows, a beautiful “sanctuary” and a stiff, formal service that soul winning is no longer on the agenda.

Not only should a Christian be careful always to tell the truth - and stories about Santa Claus, Easter rabbits, and good fairies are definitely not truthful - but he ought to be careful never to let anything detract from the story of Christ. □

## ***NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS***

☛ ***FALSE TEACHER TONY CAMPOLO DIES*** - Tony Campolo, influential evangelical author/teacher, died on Nov. 19 at age 89. I (Evangelist David Cloud) read his books for research, heard him speak at Missionsfest ’92 in Vancouver, British Columbia, and interviewed him at the New Baptist Covenant Celebration in Atlanta in January 2008, which I attended with media credentials. He was a deeply confused man who misinterpreted Scripture and stumbled into many heresies, thus leading many astray.

***His foundational error was with regard to salvation.*** He was not born again, biblically, and that by his own testimony. He said that his mother, who was saved out of Catholicism, wanted to see her son have a “born-again experience,” but he admitted that “it never worked for me” (Letters to a Young Evangelical). Instead he learned from “reading the Catholic mystics, especially The Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius of Loyola” (co-founder of the Jesuits), that salvation is a process, not an event (Letters to a Young Evangelical, pp. 30-31).

► Campolo taught that *“Christ lives in all human beings, regardless of whether they are Christians”* and *“Jesus is the only Savior, but not everybody who is being saved by Him is aware that He is the one who is doing the saving”* ([A Reasonable Faith](#)).

► ***He claimed that the Scripture is not inerrantly inspired of God and is not “the ultimate authority for faith”*** ([Partly Right](#), p. 99).

► He held an evolutionary view of the origin of man and the universe.

► He was an ecumenist who associated with the most liberal of denominations, Roman Catholicism, Seventh-day Adventism, etc.

► He was on the editorial board for the production of the film Mother Teresa, which exalted the Roman Catholic nun and contained no warning about her false gospel.

► Campolo preached a social gospel: *“[Jesus] saved us in order that He might begin to transform His world into the kind of world that He willed for it to be when He created it”* ([It’s Friday but Sunday’s Coming](#), p. 106).

► He hated and mocked dispensationalism and rejected the biblical doctrine of the imminent return of Christ.

► He said homosexuals should be allowed to join churches and be ordained without renouncing homosexuality and supported homosexual marriage.

► A major source of his heretical thinking was Catholic contemplative prayer. He said, *“I get up in the morning a half hour before I have to and spend time in absolute stillness. I don’t ask God for anything. I just simply surrender to His presence and yield to the Spirit flowing into my life”* (*Outreach Magazine*, July/August 2004, pp. 88, 89).

► He said *“a theology of mysticism provides some hope for common ground between Christianity and Islam”* ([Speaking My Mind](#), pp. 149f, 150). This is not biblical meditation. It is a recipe

for spiritual delusion.

Evangelicalism, with its renunciation of separation and its lack of boundaries, is leavened with every sort of sin and heresy. It is the incipient form of the one-world church, which will reach full blossom in the day of the Lord as described in Revelation 17.

☛ ***UNION SEMINARY PERFORMS LAST SUPPER IN DRAG*** - The following is excerpted from “Union Seminary,” *The Disntr*, Nov. 18, 2024:

“Union Theological Seminary held a ‘Drag Communion’ event in their chapel, featuring drag performers presiding over the Lord’s Table while attendees were invited to dress in drag or any other ‘fabulous’ way they saw fit. The event promised to explore the ‘queerness’ of the Last Supper and other so-called ‘deep questions,’ all while reducing the sacred act of Communion to a flamboyant costume party hosted by LGBTQ activists Marge Erin Johnson and Chad Manley. Participants were encouraged to strut into the chapel as though the Lord’s Supper were some cabaret sideshow in need of an audience.”

**CONCLUSION:** Union Seminary was founded in 1826 by the Presbyterian Church. It was captured by theological liberalism by the last quarter of the 19th century. In 1891, Charles A. Briggs gave a lecture entitled *“The Authority of Holy Scripture”* in which he called belief in verbal inspiration, miracles, and predictive prophecy “barriers” that impeded men in understanding the Bible properly. While students laughed and applauded in appreciation, he mocked the miracles of the Old Testament. He claimed that there are many ways to “find God,” including through human reason and the Roman Catholic Church. When the Presbyterian Church deposed Briggs for heresy, Union Seminary disassociated itself from denominational oversight.

*The Last Supper in Drag* is a product of theological liberalism. If the Bible is not the infallible Word of God, there is no absolute authority, Jesus Christ was either deceived or a deceiver, there is no salvation, and nothing matters.

Thank God, though, Briggs was the one who was deceived, and Union Seminary has been a vile and ridiculous institution ever since.

The Bible’s prophecies prove its divine inspiration. In fact, the Last Supper Drag crew are prophesied: **“But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. ... [God turned] the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly; And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked. ... But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities...”** (*II Peter 2:1-2, 6, 7, 10*).