

# MAYHEW TORCH

THE NEWSLETTER OF MAYHEW COMMUNITY BAPTIST

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## PASTOR MIKE'S MUSTARD SEEDS...

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Pastor Mike's Mustard Seeds

12-2017

Thanksgiving and Christmas are my favorite two holidays. It speaks so much of family.

Oh man, it's 9:30 am and I've got to attend 3 meetings today at church, write my Torch article, clean my office (mmm, not today). Get the New Members Class ready. Read my mail. Get ready for AWANA. Visit the hospital, make 5 phone calls and check on the office staff. Set up a training session for the new sound board. Sprinklers aren't working and the new sign is missing some letters so need to call technical support. I have to figure out when to go to the gym. The church's wifi went down so got to fix that. Need to replace my guitar strings and figure out why the subwoofer in the sanctuary isn't working. I need to take Celine, my 3 year old granddaughter to Chuck E. Cheese... I'll apologize and reschedule, she'll understand. Help Doug with changing lights and putting in new lights outside so it isn't so dark. Oh no...one of my hardest ministries, two funerals this week. The sewer lines are plugged again need to rent a sewer auger to run down the sewer lines. Uh oh... why is my phone ringing at 1:53 am? Oh the alarm system went off and they're calling me to see if we want the police called. Did the police go and see? Better go down and check and reset the alarm. Alright 3:30 am back to sleep. Meet with Hannah to plan on remodeling the nursery. Figure out how to run TV cable to Crone Hall so the ladies can see what's happening in the Sanctuary for funerals, weddings and special services. I have to figure out when to go to the gym. Cabinet meeting tonight and Thursday morning Pastors' cluster meeting. Marriage counseling today at three. Set up a lunch meeting to plan Harvest festival for the 31<sup>st</sup> of October and one month to have a float ready for the Lincoln Village Christmas Parade for outreach. Three days after Harvest Festival need to drive to Fresno and pick up 26' flat bed trailer for the parade. That will take all day. Then I'll need to take it back to Fresno when it's over. I need to go and buy the wood to build the stages for the float and figure out how to set up the sound system with generators for the float, or buy an extension cord that is one mile long. Oh, and need to plan for the Advent Sundays. Christmas shopping.... I'll put that off until next week. I have to figure out when to go to the gym. The car needs an oil change. Need to take Luanne out to dinner...oh that can wait till next week. Need to attend budgeting meetings this week for the 2018 year around the corner so need to work with Trustees and other boards. Oh, LOL, should work on my sermon....

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# STOP!!!!

Thanksgiving and Christmas are my favorite two holidays. It speaks so much of family. Oh really!!!!

Who is this person that seems to have lots of extra time? It's a person who needs to make sure balance is a priority in his life.

That's what I want to share with you this month, balance in our spiritual lives. Nowhere is it mentioned prayer time. Time alone with God! All of the things this person does is good, but he needs to make sure he has a balanced life with God, family, work and play. As I get older I find myself looking back as Solemn did. All of the good things we do with our lives, no matter how noble they may be, mean nothing unless God is at the center and He is my reason for doing all that I do. This, by the way, is just a little of what goes on. I struggle at maintaining a balance just like everyone else, but I make it a priority. The scriptures teach us that God is first in all we do and who we are. He is the source of life. He is the reason I love Thanksgiving and Christmas. But see how quickly we can put God on the shelf? He will be my focus every day. Every Sunday I get to teach and worship is because God will be there and so will you. We will worship Him together. The Wise men worshiped 2000 years ago. Guess what? **It's still the wisest thing to do today!** The story of Christmas is God giving His son to us. It cost Him the most precious thing in His life. HE GAVE!!! Let us give of ourselves to Him. Let us give our hearts, time, talents and gifts. He truly deserves it! Keep your balance this season. Spend time with God. This is the REASON for the SEASON!

God Bless you! Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!

The Pastor with nothing to do!



The Christmas Candle so warm  
and bright glows with the Spirit of  
the Season by giving of itself.



## Bible Verse for the Month of December



*“...behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife; for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.”*

*Matthew 1:20-21.*

## CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER

Morning Worship Service: 11:00 a.m. every Sunday

Children's Sunday School : 9:45 Sunday mornings

Adult Sunday School: 10:00 a.m. Sunday mornings

Pastor's Breakfast – 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month at 8:30 a.m., Perkos

Diaconate meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month following morning service.

Trustee meetings: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month following morning service.

Cabinet Meetings: 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

Women's Bible Study: 5:30 p.m. each Wednesday

AWANA, every Tues (except holidays) 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Casa Coloma Health Care Facility: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays: 9:00 a.m. sing-along;  
10:00 spiritual message

Dress-A-Girl Around the World – 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays , 11:00 – 2:00

Quilting Group - 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays, 1:00 -3:00

ABWM (American Baptist Women's Ministry) – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after service.

AGAPE – College and Career Group: Every Friday 7:30 p.m.

Band Practice: Morning service – Thursdays 7:15 p.m. and Sundays 9:15 a.m.

Christmas collection in Foyer: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays after service.

NOTE: Periodically, a schedule change will occur. Check with ministry coordinators. If you don't know who to contact, ask Anne.



**MAYHEW CBC 2017 HARVEST FESTIVAL**

Submitted by Hannah Guro, Harvest Festival Coordinator

The evening weather was perfect. There was music in the air. The band was led by Nella Dietz. The lighting couldn't have been better to draw the surrounding community to our event. And that it did, 250 people.

The older students from the Yattiy School were in charge of the games. They used some games we already had, but also came up with some new games. It was a blessing to have their wonderful assistance.

This is the first year we ran out of food. Must be Paulene's good cooking. Had lots of cookies and cupcakes donated for our cake walk. We had 7 vehicles for our trunk or treat.

I would like to thank everyone who helped make our event successful. The ones who helped set up the lights, donated candies and baked goods, donated their time, money, setup, cleanup, or whatever, this event wouldn't have been a success without you.



**Lots of games, run by the older school kids**



**Doug's Hot Rod**

## Pictures from the Harvest Festival



**"Lot Full"**



**"Joseph and Mary" leading in Awana songs**



**Mayhew CBC Band**

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT**

Submitted by Anne Chapman

It has been a busy time for Christian Education. Here are a few highlights:

**HARVEST FESTIVAL**

You just read Hannah's report and thank you about the successful Harvest Festival. It was truly an AMAZING EVENT this year! So much went into it and so many people helped out. Great job, Hannah, in organizing everything!

It all started in the spring with the refurbishing of the game props by Doug and Hannah. The tall Welcome sign, made of rope lights, went up over the gate and almost all the trees were decorated with lights. The kids from the school were a big help with this.

A huge attraction was the live band, set on a stage in the upper parking lot. When they first began playing at 5:30, people in the neighborhood started coming out of their homes to see what was happening, then proceeded to come over. They played for two hours – Pastor Mike, Doug, Nella, Hope, Tom and Bob, with Stephen from the school on the sound board. A tremendous amount of work went into setting everything up, practicing beforehand, etc. It was a huge and beautiful success.

Of course, the main focus of this event is to reach out to the community with the Word, to share the Good News about salvation through Jesus, and to do so in a safe and fun environment. Even after the event was over at 7:30, people were still coming up to the decorated cars to read the scriptures and talk with us. Some people did not know who Jesus was so were hearing about Him for the first time. Tammy and Ed gave visitors the interesting story of Noah. "Moses" was there with his two tablets.

Margaret was a beautiful Angel in her home-made outfit, and Derrick and Nella came dressed as Joseph and Mary. They all were so authentic as they mingled with the crowd. Prayers were said at the prayer table as well as at one of the cars. One couple came with their adorable little girls, ages 2 and 4. They have been coming to church ever since and have joined us for dinner. A great family!

There is too much to be reported here, so the best thing is to come out Next Year. There is always a need for help in preparing for and running this event, or just come out to enjoy it.

**AWANA**

AWANA is still going strong. More people have come forward to help out. If we get a few more, we may be able to start accepting more children. This year is the first time we've ever had to turn people away.

A week ago, Margaret gave the message. 10 children accepted Jesus as their Savior that night! Praise God, and thank you, Margaret. If you are wondering, the children "really do" understand that it means to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

This last Sunday, Nella gave a powerful message about what it means to be a "cornerstone," and have Jesus as our cornerstone in our lives. The teaching was out of the book of Matthew. She had 13 buckets and 3 large poster boards. She had some of the kids come up and build a structure with three levels.



When they placed the buckets only in the middle and pressure was applied to the edge of the “floor,” it collapsed. Finally, when they had all four corners of each level supported by a bucket, all was well and supported.

THEN, she explained that’s how Jesus is for us, our cornerstone. BUT, what happens if one bucket on the ground floor is removed? Well, things were a little unstable but still standing. She related it to Jesus’ love for us and how He still helps us when we falter. BUT THEN, she said if I can remove one bucket, and things are still standing, why not two? Why should it matter? (So what if we stray off the path a little farther?) YOU GUESSED IT – EVERYTHING COLLAPSED IN A HEAP! The message could not have been clearer! Great job, Nella! I’m sure it wasn’t just the kids who learned something here!

A big thanks to all the volunteers who, so far, are: Nella, Derrick, Margaret, Hannah, Doug, Paulene, Valerie, Karen, Jim, Robin, Tamaryn, Joanne, Stephen and Mieke (parents), Mark (parent), Abby (a sister), Anne, Pastor Mike.

### **AGAPE**

Mayhew CBC’s AGAPE Ministry meets every Friday night at 7:30 p.m. One night is a Worship Night, another a Bible study, another the regular AGAPE meeting, and the fourth is a Youth Night in partnership with Yaytiir School.

### **YOUNG WOMEN’S MINISTRY**

Women ages 18-43 may contact Florene LaBlanc regarding the services of this ministry.

### **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Adult Sunday School at 11:00 am on Sundays, is a valuable time for learning and fellowship. Teachers rotate, taking one month each. Sunday School teachers are Floyd Gipson, Luis Carter, Rose Grant and Robin Alexander. Come join us!

### **CHILDREN’S CHURCH**

Hannah reports all is going well. Following Children’s Moments on Sunday, the little ones accompany Hannah to Children’s Church.

### **FOOTNOTE: YATTYIR HYBRID SCHOOL**

Although Mayhew CBC has no supervision over the activities of the school, we are serving the Lord by providing this wonderful Christian school with a place to hold their classes and activities. It is a union created by the Lord. What a great way to assist in providing for “Christian Education” within our community!

# Pictures from Trunk R' Treat



## **WHO WROTE THAT SONG? I'VE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS**

This is another favorite of Cornelius Lilly, who loved to play this song on his guitar. Kurt, his guitar instructor, played it at the service for Cornelius. It is a special song to anyone who, like Cornelius, has made a personal commitment to follow Jesus. It does, however, have a surprising story behind it!

The lyrics are based on the last words of Nokseng, a Garo man from a tribe in India. He and his family decided to follow Jesus Christ in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century through the efforts of a Welsh missionary.

Called to renounce his faith by the village chief, the convert declared, "I have decided to follow Jesus." His two children were killed and in response to threats to his wife, he continued, "Though none go with me, still I will follow." His wife was killed, and he was executed while singing, "The cross before me, the world behind me." This display of faith is reported to have led to the conversion of the chief and others in the village.

The formation of these words into a hymn is attributed to the Indian missionary Sadhu Sundar Singh. The melody is also Indian, and entitled "Assam" after the region where the text originated. An American hymn editor, William Jensen Reynolds, composed an arrangement which was included in the 1959 Assembly Songbook. His version became a regular feature of Billy Graham's evangelistic meetings in America and elsewhere, spreading its popularity.

Submitted by Anne Chapman

**MEETING WITH LINCOLN VILLAGE AND CITY OF RANCHO CORDOVA**  
**AND**  
**\* \* \* MAYHEW CBC'S 26-FOOT CHRISTMAS PARADE FLOAT \* \* \***

On November 8, Hope, Anne, Carl and Otha, as well as Katherena of Yattiy School, attended a meeting at Mt. Mike's Pizza with the Lincoln Village Community Association and the City of Rancho Cordova to discuss the upcoming Christmas Parade. First, however, we all shared how successful our respective Harvest Festivals were. We celebrated each other's success and learned a lot from everyone.

Then the topic turned to the upcoming Christmas Parade to be held Thursday, December 14 from 6:30-7:30. The parade starts at A. M. Winn Elementary School, proceeds through streets of the neighborhood and ends back at the school with hot coco and fellowship. The course is about a mile.

Mayhew CBC will have a 26-foot float, pulled by Pastor Mike's truck. The theme will be a Snow Globe, with a live band, a live nativity scene, and frosty the snow man is hitching a ride! It will be a major undertaking to get it ready by that time. The pace will be slow enough to walk along, and provides a great opportunity to greet people in the neighborhood and hand out information about our church. Yattiy School will be involved as well.

The City of Rancho Cordova and Lincoln Village are very supportive of our church being involved in community events. Everyone shares ideas and helps each other out. We are looking forward to this event and many more.



## JoySounds Fall Concert By Tanya Wright

Melodious voices performed to a full house at Mayhew CBC Friday evening, November 18th, as Becca Viola directed her Children's Choirs, JoySounds and JoySounds Jr. The fun and soul-stirring selections flowed and flowed.

The newest and youngest part of the choir JoySounds Jr. is comprised of mostly younger siblings of the original older choir group. They made their debut performance opening with one of my childhood favorites, The Gospel Train (well known for its spiritual refrain, GET ON BOARD LITTLE CHILDREN, GET ON BOARD) sung with enthusiasm, joy and a jovial spirit which delighted the audience along with hand motions of turning train wheels and toot tooting whistle blows.

The ages were four years old to first grade and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade through 9<sup>th</sup> grade. One little girl had turned 4 that day. There were 9 in the younger choir and they sang 4 songs. There were 16 in the older choir and they sang 9 songs. Then both choirs sang the last song together.

The wonderful selections of praises to God, some in different languages, difficult rounds sung excellently, beautiful solos and pure tone harmonizing, were heartwarming.

It was a treat to watch the mutual expressions of pride held by siblings as they closely watched each other ace their performances. What a wonderful evening.



### **NEW MEMBER CLASS**

Pastor Mike will be holding a class for people who may wish to become members of the church, or simply want to obtain more information. It will be held before service on the following Sundays at 10:00: December 3, 10, 17. There is no obligation to become a member if someone wishes to sit through the class. It is a valuable learning experience and occasionally long-time members sit through it for a refresher.

Parishioners do not need to be a member to participate in church activities. However, only members have the privilege of holding an elective office and voting at the Annual Business Meeting. This is a great time to learn a lot, ask questions, and have fellowship with the Pastor and other parishioners.

A sign-up sheet is in the foyer. If you have any questions about the class, please see Pastor Mike.

### **CANDELIGHT SERVICE**

There will be a Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve at 5:00 p.m.

### **2017 CHRISTMAS FUND COLLECTION**

This year's Christmas Committee is Ted, Dora and Diane. The funds are used to help people in need, both within the church and the community. The Christmas collection is taken by Tamaryn in the foyer on the third Sunday of each month. It is also taken in Adult Sunday School each week and the two are combined at the end of the year. Donations may also be made by using the weekly offering bag and indicating on the contribution "Christmas Fund." A big thanks to all who have contributed throughout the year and to those of you who will be doing so.

### **A SPECIAL THANK YOU**

A sincere Thank You goes to all who read the Torch, give feedback and encouragement, and give donations to help with the cost of publication and mailing. You are much appreciated.

### **ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**

The Annual Business Meeting of Mayhew CBC will be held after service on January 21, 2018.

### **Announcements, Updates and Coming Events**

Pastor's Breakfast – For the month of December, the breakfast will be held on the first Tuesday, December 5th at 8:30 am. The breakfast will be held at Perko's Restaurant.

Torch articles for the month of January will be due on Monday, December 18th. Articles are to be submitted by email to [mayhewcbc@gmail.com](mailto:mayhewcbc@gmail.com).

### **ABWM Craft and Bake Sale**

This year's event was a tremendous success. \$580 came in for the craft and bake sale and \$251 for purchasing food at lunch. Lunch consisted of Becca's famous chili, as well as hot dogs, chips and sodas. There were sweet potato pies, apple pies, cookies and cupcakes to be purchased. Thanks to everyone who helped to make this event a success and for everyone's support.

### **December Birthdays**

12/1– Crystal Newton

12/3– George Sato

12/3– Bill Gregg

12/3– J. Gregg

12/5– Brandon Gregg

12/7– Tammy Jensen

12/15– Beverly Gumbs

12/25– Derrick Dietz

12/31– Gay Sun

### **December Anniversaries**

12/22– Bob and Hope Nelson

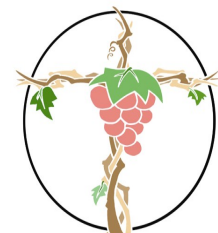
12/23– Floyd and Lodie Gipson

12/31– Leroy and Beverly Kennedy

### **In Memory Of...**

Anne Chapman IMO Cornelius Lilly

Anne Chapman IMO Nella Shepherd Powell



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Mon—Thurs: 9am—2pm

Fri.: Closed

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