

# Circuit Writer

Lebanon United Methodist Church

1/1/2014

Edition 4

## *12 Days of Christmas!* The True Meaning...

Long ago in a land over the ocean and through some woods there were pastors who were told they couldn't teach their beliefs. After many sleepless nights and a song was born. One that not only reminds us of the twelve days between the day of Christ birth and the day of Epiphany but also all the gifts that God, our True Love has given me, to us, all those who believe in Him.

On the first day of Christmas, his birthday of course, our True love gave to us a partridge in a pear tree. The partridge in the pear tree also represents Him because that bird is willing to sacrifice its life if necessary to protect its young by feigning injury to draw away predators.

On the second day of Christmas my true love gave to me, two turtle doves that remind us that our Bible is broken into two parts the Old and New Testament. The doves are symbols too. In the Old Testament, before Jesus' death on the cross, it is acceptable for the poor to sacrifice two turtledoves as an offering that helps to bring peace with God. It is believed that when Mary and Joseph come to Jerusalem after Christ's birth, they sacrificed two of these birds.

On the third day of Christmas my true love gave to me, three French Hens. 1 Corinthians 13:13 says "Three things will last forever--faith, hope, and love--and the greatest of these is love." French Hens were very expensive when this song was written so they can also be symbols of the three expensive gifts the wise men brought: Gold, Frankincense and myrrh.

The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The gospels were written to help us to not only help us to believe but also to help us grow in our faith. John 20:30-31 says, "30 Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. 31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

The five golden rings represented the first five books of the Old Testament, which describe man's fall into sin and the great love of God in sending a Savior.

Day six: six geese a-laying. Eggs are an almost universal symbol of new life. The laying geese symbolize the six days of creation where God was bringing new life to this earth.

Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit---- Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the

needs of others, let him give generously, if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

The maids who milked the cows were the least of the servants in a home. Their job symbolized Christ's faithfulness even to us who don't deserve his love (Rom. 5:1-5). The eight maids stand for the eight "beatitudes" or blessings listed in Matthew 5:3-10:

Nine ladies dancing represent the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit---- love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

The ten lords a-leaping remind us of the Ten Commandments.

The eleven pipers piping stand for the eleven faithful Apostles.

The Apostles' Creed is one of the earliest "confessions" of faith that summarize the basic teachings of biblical Christian faith. Orthodox confessions are not meant to add to or replace scripture, but to summarize its teachings. They can be recited at will to remind us of the basics of the Christian faith. The Drummers "set the pace," reminders of what we believe by symbolizing the twelve doctrines summarized in the Apostles' Creed.

*Safe Sanctuaries Training*  
Saturday, January 11

Our children, youth and vulnerable adults are very important to us. Because of this we want to make sure that we keep them safe. Also, our building is one of our greatest gifts (besides the people that fill it) that God has given us. We want to keep it safe as well as all those who come into our building. That is what this training is designed to help us do. To keep our resources and blessings that God has given us safe. Come Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm. Childcare will be provided. Please bring your driver license and if you can 10\$ to go toward the cost of the background check.

*Family Night Supper Host*

We need hosts for Family Night Supper starting this month! If you would like to sign up to host please contact the church office at 270-692-2761 or sign up on the sign-up sheet in the Sanctuary.

A HUGE thank you for all of our  
Christmas presents.

Thank you for blessing us!

Love,  
The Staff



**January Life Works Events**

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>:** Family Game Night! We will have the Wii and a few other games to play. All ages welcome.

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>:** Safe Sanctuary Training for all volunteers – 2 pm. Youth will be providing childcare.

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>:** Kid's Worship/ Choir in chapel 11 am; Youth Group 6 pm

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>:** Family Night Supper 6:30 pm

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup>:** Children's Winter Fun Day 1 – 3 pm

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>:** Kid's Worship/ Choir in chapel 11 am; Youth Group 6 pm

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup>:** Winter Blitz! 8am – noon Sunday (permission slip is required; 6<sup>th</sup> – college)

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>:** Kid's Worship/ Choir in chapel 11 am; No Youth

