

THE ABINGDON ADVOCATE

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Why Would Jesus Come to Us?

There was a young man who was having difficulty trying to understand just that...why Jesus would come to earth...to be mocked, lied on, rejected, spit upon, beaten, and crucified....this teenager just couldn't understand why One who was so powerful would come and subject himself to this.

This continued to torment the teenager day after day after day.

One night, a great wind and snow storm was taking place...the young man went to his window and he saw a flock of geese had been knocked to the ground by the wind. The teenager, who dreamed of going on to school and becoming a veterinarian, was concerned that the geese would die if left out in the blinding snow storm...so he went out and tried to lead the geese into a nearby barn for shelter...but the geese would scatter in all directions whenever the young man got too close. He tried to shoo the geese, he tried to motion them into the barn, but to no avail. This young man really wanted to save the geese....and as he pondered what he might do, he thought, "If only I could become one of them, then I could speak their language and could show them the way to safety."

And in that moment, this young man understood...why would Jesus come to us? Jesus became like us so that we might become like him.

John 1:14

Philippians 2:6-7

Merry Christmas from your district superintendent and district office staff!

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE ABINGDON DISTRICT OFFICE WILL CLOSE AT 5 PM ON DECEMBER 19th and REOPEN ON JANUARY 3rd.

Christmas Eve Services

Addilynn Memorial	5:30 pm
Aldersgate	11 pm
Beech Grove	9 pm
Byars-Cobb	8 pm
Emory	5:30 pm
Davis Memorial	7 pm
First Bristol	7 pm & 11 pm
Carvosso	7 pm & 11 pm
Grace	5 pm
Grace Circuit	6:30 pm at Rich Valley UMC
Marion First	5 pm & 7 pm
Meadowview	4 pm
Mountain View Chilhowie	6:30 pm
Pleasant View	8 pm
Reynolds Memorial	5 pm
Shady Grove	8 pm
Sinking Springs	6 pm
State Street	5:30 pm & 8 pm
St. Luke	6 pm
South Bristol	9 pm
Virginia Avenue	6:30 pm
Washington Springs	5 pm

Cluster service for Wharf Hill, Elizabeth of Abingdon District and Asbury, Blue Springs, Speedwell, Grossclose of Wytheville District to be held at Asbury UMC at 5 pm

Other Special Services

Christmas Eve Service at Madam Russell on December 23rd at 7 pm

Combined service with presentation of Christmas Cantata for Wharf Hill and Elizabeth UMC at 11 am on Christmas Day.

New Year's Eve at Charles Wesley at 6:30 pm

Broadford Circuit will have New Year's Eve Service at Tannersville Community Center beginning at 8 pm

Call to Action Goal Data Collection

Pastors, you can now enter your church's information at the Vital Congregations website (www.umvitalcongregations.org). Those of you who have previously submitted your GOALS to the district please input your information. If you need a copy of what was submitted contact the district office.

Go to <http://www.umvitalcongregations.org>

Click on the tab labeled **Setting Goals**. There you will find a short You Tube video that gives excellent instructions on how to input data.

Here are the Steps to Enter Goal Data

1. Select **Setting Goals** tab
2. Find the **Setting Vital Congregation Goals** heading on the right side of the page.
3. Select Congregations: Click here to set your Goals
4. Scroll down the page and to the middle option **Select by Conference**. Enter **Conference:** <Holston> and **District:** < >
5. **Select Your Church from the List Below** will appear with the option to **Select Your Church**. (Select the church you want to enter). If the church has already entered their goal data, it should appear for 2012-2015.
 - a. Enter stats for 2012-2015 for all categories
 - b. In the box labeled **Your First and Last Name**, please enter the name of the person submitting information (normally the pastor)
 - c. In the box labeled **Your E-Mail Address**, please enter email address for person submitting information (normally pastor)
 - d. Press **Submit**.
6. Pastors, remember you are to turn in your **completed** Vital Congregation planning outline on Tuesday, January 10, 2012 at the district clergy meeting at Wyndale UMC. **(The End of the year report is also due at this time.)**

Reminder to Pastors and Church Treasurers

The Abingdon District Books will close on January 10th. Please make every effort to pay your district askings in full by that date.

