

Madison Heights Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)



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Madison Heights, VA 24572

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## MADISON HEIGHTS MESSENGER

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### A True Christmas

When we think of the sacrifice that the Lord made for us we tend to think about Holy Week and the crucifixion. However, the sacrifices were woven throughout the life of Jesus from the moment of his birth here on Earth. Think about what it means to be born with the animals and placed in a manger. It means that the Lord is willing to take the lowest valued position in the realm of humanity. However, the Lord is not only willing to be last for us but is willing to take it to the most extreme of circumstances. A woman in labor suffered the consequences of the environment while the healthy people were allowed the comfort of adequate shelter. A person of extreme need suffered without while those without the need had provisions. The Lord could have had a grand entrance and the prestige of royalty. However, the Lord not only gave up aspects of royalty but also the common privileges of the average person.

There is a version of the nativity story that is a true story of a nine year old boy that was in the second grade in school. He was behind two years because he had difficulty keeping up. Most of the other students tended to ignore him because he was slow and clumsy, but he was also very kind. He had hoped to be a shepherd in the school's nativity play. However, the teacher assigned him a minor speaking part as the role of the innkeeper.

The boy got caught up in the story as it was unfolding on the stage in front of him as he stood, mesmerized, in the wings. When the time came, Joseph tenderly guided Mary to the door of the inn. Joseph knocked hard on the plywood, and the innkeeper was there waiting. When Joseph knocked on the door and asked for lodging the innkeeper responded with "Seek it elsewhere, the inn is full." But Joseph pleads "We have asked everywhere in vain. We have traveled far and are very weary." The innkeeper was stern "I cannot help you! There are no more rooms available." Joseph gave it his best shot, "Please, good innkeeper, look, this is my wife Mary, she is in labor now and we need someplace right now! There has got to be something someone can do!" The next line for the innkeeper is "Be gone!" but the innkeeper barely whispered the word.

Joseph sadly put his arm around the pregnant Mary and she rested her head on his shoulder as the two of them slowly moved away. The innkeeper did not move as he stood transfixed in the doorway of the cardboard inn. His eye filled with tears and the Christmas pageant took an unexpected turn as he shouted out "Don't go Joseph, bring Mary back, you can have my room."

This particular school pageant provides an example of Christian care as a person makes room for life's weary traveler. Some say that it was ruined by the boy playing the role of innkeeper but others say it was a true Christmas.

Thank you,

*George*